

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2024100484

Project Title: GWDRs for Commercial Lily Bulb Operations in the Smith River Plain

Lead Agency: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Project Location: Smith River, Del Norte County

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Proposed Project consists of adopting General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDRs), known as the Lily Bulb Order, to regulate commercial lily bulb operations within the Smith River Plain and coastal terraces between Pyramid Point and the Oregon border. The Order would apply to commercial operations cultivating lily bulbs within a five-year period and associated facilities. It would establish enrollment, fee payment, management practice implementation, and monitoring and reporting requirements to control discharges to surface water and groundwater, protect sensitive aquatic habitat, and safeguard beneficial uses, consistent with CEQA, Basin Plan objectives, and State Water Board nonpoint source pollution policies.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Draft EIR identifies significant and potentially significant effects associated with implementation of the Lily Bulb Order. Streamside Area requirements to meet Basin Plan temperature objectives could result in the conversion of Prime Farmland to non-agricultural use, an impact determined to be significant and unavoidable with no feasible mitigation, requiring a Statement of Overriding Considerations. Potential impacts to biological resources and cultural and tribal cultural resources may occur from management practice implementation but would be reduced to less than significant through mitigation measures including avoidance, timing restrictions, design standards, invasive species management, consultation, and inadvertent discovery procedures. All other resource impacts would be less than significant or no impact.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

During the CEQA Scoping period, the North Coast Water Board received many public comments on the Proposed Project. These comments are documented in Section II.E of the Draft EIR, and generally include:

Appropriateness and extent of riparian buffer and setback requirements, particularly their effects on agricultural viability and land use.

Whether the Proposed Project goes too far or not far enough.

Reliance on adaptive management and self-reporting, versus calls for third-party or independent monitoring.

Health and environmental justice concerns, raised by community members regarding long-term exposure, cumulative effects, and public health protections.

Consistency with other regulatory frameworks, including the Coastal Act, Endangered Species Act, and agricultural protection policies.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

These are General Waste Discharge Requirements issued by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. No responsible or trustee agencies have been established.