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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 #: 2025020048

Project Title: GWDRs for Irrigated Lands in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

Lead Agency: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Contact Name: Brenna Sullivan

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Project Location: Siskiyou County, countywide

City *County*

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

The proposed Project is the establishment of General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDRs) for irrigated agricultural lands to control discharges of agricultural pollutants to surface water and groundwater originating from activities in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. Specific agricultural operations have the potential to discharge pollutants to surface water and groundwater from stormwater and irrigation runoff, the application of pesticides and fertilizer, erosion of sediment, and removal and suppression of riparian vegetation. The proposed WDRs will require Enrollees to assess, plan, and implement a suite of site-specific actions and management practices to control discharges from specific agricultural operations.

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

The adoption and implementation of the Scott and Shasta Order may result in adverse effects on the environment from the potential conversion of Important Farmland to a non-agricultural use and may result in conflicts with existing zoning for agriculture use or a Williamson Act contract. These two impacts may occur as a result of Riparian Vegetation Area Prohibitions and Standard Conditions which implement the Policy for Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature. Through adoption of Resolution R1-2014-0006, the North Coast Water Board found the potential conversion of Important Farmland to a non-agricultural use and the potential conflict with existing zoning for agriculture use or a Williamson Act contract from implementing riparian buffers as significant and unavoidable. The Proposed Project has the potential to significantly impact Agricultural Resources with no feasible mitigation.
Impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources were determined to be less than significant with mitigation related to implementing Best Management Practices. No Impact or Less than Significant Impacts were determined for Aesthetics, Air Quality, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

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

This is a Draft Environmental Impact Report, so has not received public comment yet. However, the significant and unavoidable impact to Agricultural and Forestry Resources is an area of controversy raised during CEQA Scoping.

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

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board