
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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CONNECTED ECOLOGY, STONEBRIAR DRIVE POND LEVELER INSTALLATION PROJECT, EL DORADO COUNTY

On 15 May 2025 The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received notification from Connected Ecology of the proposed Stonebriar Drive Pond Leveler Installation Project (Project). The Project as described involves installing two pond leveler flow devices within ponds created by two existing beaver dams on an unnamed tributary to Carson Creek in a residential neighborhood in El Dorado Hills, California. The pond leveler flow devices will stabilize the elevation of the pond upstream of the beaver dam and sustain the aquatic habitat that would otherwise be lost if the beavers were removed due to human concerns. If the pond surfaces are not kept at or below their current elevation using pond leveling devices, nearby human infrastructure will be threatened.

Each pond leveler device consists of an intake cage resting in the pond approximately 30 feet upstream of the beaver dam and a 12-inch diameter pipe running from the intake cage to the crest of the beaver dam downstream. A notch is created as a resting place in the top of the beaver dam and the material taken from that notch is used to camouflage the top of the pipe. The pipe will be supported by the intake cage, two t post "H" supports and the crest of the beaver dam. The pipe will be secured to the t post "H" supports and/or weighted with concrete blocks. The intake cage is secured with t posts. The pond leveler devices will be assembled in a nearby public park and/or in an upland area adjacent to the drainage. Installation is accomplished using hand tools and foot traffic.

Impacts from installation will be minimal, and the Project will not result in a loss of waters of the state. On the contrary, implementation of the Project will ensure that aquatic habitat that has established because of the beaver dams will remain. The United States Army Corps of Engineers determined the Project activities, as described in the submitted documents, will not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material within waters of the United States and that a Department of the Army Permit is not required; therefore, a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification is not

required. The Central Valley Water Board has determined that the Project, as described in the submitted documents, will not affect the quality of waters of the state as defined; therefore, waste discharge requirements are not required.

Best management practices to prevent soil erosion and to control sediment should be implemented within the Project area. In addition, construction materials should be properly disposed of once the Project is completed.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas Savino by phone at (916) 464-4920 or by email at Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov.

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Distribution List [via email only]

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