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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

**Date:** 18 September 2025

**Project Title:**

McCloud River Redband Refuge Pool Habitat  
Enhancement Project (Project)

**Project Location - Specific:**

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 027-010-030 & 018-180-010  
Nearest City: McCloud  
Latitude: 41.3329° and Longitude: -121.8241°  
Latitude: 41.3766° and Longitude: -121.8869°

**Project Location - County:**

Siskiyou County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Project proposes to improve hydrologic function and create drought resilient habitat for McCloud River redband trout, which are endemic to the Upper McCloud watershed and currently designated as a Species of Special Concern by California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). The Project will enhance two existing pools on Sheepheaven Creek and develop pools in four locations on Edson Creek through the installation of a series of rock cross-vane structures and excavation of accumulated excess fine sediment materials.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:**

**Federal Agencies:** The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404.

***State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification:***

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office.  
WDID No. 5A47CR00067.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Serena Doose  
California Trout  
701 S Mount Shasta Blvd., Suite A  
Mount Shasta, CA 96097

**Exempt Status:**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, article 19, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, which consists of projects not to exceed five acres to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

**Reasons why Project is Exempt:**

This project is categorically exempt under CEQA section 15333 because the Project involves enhancement of habitat for fish and is less than five acres in size.

**Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:**

William Connor  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District  
[William.M.Connor@usace.army.mil](mailto:William.M.Connor@usace.army.mil)

**State Lead 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

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

cc: Serena Doose, California Trout, Mount Shasta  
William Connor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District  
Stacey Alexander, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Redding  
Chad Aresenau, Sierra Pacific Industries, Redding  
Kori Hutchinson, FWS Forestry, Redding  
Tyanna Blaschak, California Trout, Mount Shasta