

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Buckhorn Dam/Grass Valley Creek Toe Drain and Channel Rehabilitation

Lead Agency: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Contact Person: Alex Cousins

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1450

Phone: 530-623-6004

City: Weaverville

Zip: 96093

County: Trinity

Project Location: County: Trinity City/Nearest Community: Lewiston

Cross Streets: Hwy 299

Zip Code: 96052

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: Various

Section: 15, 16, 22 Twp.: 32 N

Range: 8 W

Base: MDBM

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Hwy 299

Waterways: Grass Valley Creek

Airports: none

Railways: none

Schools: Lewiston Elementary

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP

☐ Draft EIR

NEPA: ☐ NOI

Other: ☒ Joint Document

☐ Early Cons

☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR

☒ EA

☐ Final Document

☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.) _____

☐ Draft EIS

☐ Other: _____

☒ Mit Neg Dec

Other: _____

☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update

☐ Specific Plan

☐ Rezone

☐ Annexation

☐ General Plan Amendment

☐ Master Plan

☐ Prezone

☐ Redevelopment

☐ General Plan Element

☐ Planned Unit Development

☐ Use Permit

☐ Coastal Permit

☐ Community Plan

☐ Site Plan

☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)

☐ Other: _____

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____

☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

☐ Educational: _____

☐ Recreational: _____

☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

☐ Transportation: Type _____

☐ Mining: Mineral _____

☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____

☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____

☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____

☒ Other: Aquatic habitat rehabilitation

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual

☐ Fiscal

☒ Recreation/Parks

☒ Vegetation

☐ Agricultural Land

☒ Flood Plain/Flooding

☒ Schools/Universities

☒ Water Quality

☒ Air Quality

☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard

☒ Septic Systems

☒ Water Supply/Groundwater

☒ Archeological/Historical

☒ Geologic/Seismic

☐ Sewer Capacity

☒ Wetland/Riparian

☒ Biological Resources

☒ Minerals

☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

☒ Growth Inducement

☐ Coastal Zone

☒ Noise

☒ Solid Waste

☒ Land Use

☒ Drainage/Absorption

☒ Population/Housing Balance

☒ Toxic/Hazardous

☒ Cumulative Effects

☒ Economic/Jobs

☒ Public Services/Facilities

☒ Traffic/Circulation

☒ Other: Dam Safety

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Trinity County's General Plan land use designation includes open space, resource lands, and rural residential

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date November 16, 2011 Ending Date December 16, 2011

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>North Wind, Inc.</u>	Applicant: <u>Trinity County Resource Conservation District</u>
Address: <u>1425 Higham St</u>	Address: <u>P.O. Box 1450</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Idaho Falls/ID/83402</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Weaverville/CA/96093</u>
Contact: <u>Joe Rothermel</u>	Phone: <u>530-623-6004</u>
Phone: <u>208-557-7858</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 11/15/2011

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Project Description

The project has two primary objectives: 1) Reduce water surface elevations in the Buckhorn Dam outlet works/toe drain system and throughout the initial 600 feet of the outlet channel reach; 2) Develop coho salmon rearing and potentially spawning habitat within the project area.

The proposed project is located west of the Buckhorn Dam outlet works, primarily within the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel and includes portions of Sections 15, 16, and 22, Township 32 North, Range 8 West, of the Mount Diablo Meridian. The project area extends from the Buckhorn Dam outlet works plunge pool downstream approximately 800 feet within the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel (Figure 2). This channel continues for another 1,500 feet to where it confluences with Grass Valley Creek (GVC) below the spillway. Since construction of Buckhorn Dam, this outlet channel has been considered the headwaters of GVC.

The United States Department of Interior (USDI) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Northern California Area Office (NCAO), with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) as the California state lead, are proposing to excavate approximately 4,500 cubic yards of material from the outlet channel of Buckhorn Dam in order to lower the water surface elevation and dry out the toe drains. This would correct submergence problems on the toe drain system so that measurements can be made at any time during outlet works releases. An additional 4,500 cubic yards of excavation would occur to remove the bedrock intrusion and enhance rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon and steelhead. It is expected that low velocity and protected habitat enhancements for coho would also benefit other native riparian species (e.g., migratory birds and amphibians). Therefore, a secondary objective is for long-term enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat within the reach; design elements are included in the proposed action to achieve this habitat objective.

As part of the project, the centerline alignment and profile of the outlet channel would be altered, creating more sinuosity, building pool/riffle habitat, lowering streambed elevations, increasing slope, widening the cross-sectional area, and developing inset floodplain benches. The project would also redevelop the meander pattern of the 800 foot outlet channel (Figure 2). Two coho salmon rearing ponds are included in the project design; both have an approximate area of 6,000 ft² (Figure 3). The rearing ponds are adjacent to the outlet channel and are connected with side channels that allow a percentage of flow to divert into the slow water pond habitat. The ponds are designed with an average depth of 6 feet but would be built with a variable bottom elevation for diversity of water depth.

The pond areas would also be filled with wood material to serve as shelter for rearing salmonids. Large Woody Debris (LWD) structures would be incorporated into the final design for both habitat and geomorphic/hydraulic purposes. LWD would create cover for coho and provide hard points for necessary flow portioning into the side channel/pond areas.

Implementation of the Buckhorn Dam/GVC project would take place during the late summer or early fall 2012. Dewatering of the project area would be essential during construction and would be implemented by diverting the normal base flow through a pump system. The flow would be pumped and rerouted from behind the outlet works wing walls, around the project reach, and back into the outlet channel downstream of the construction area. Capture and relocation of fish from within the project area to downstream of the confluence with the spillway outlet would be mandatory before excavation begins.