

APPENDIX B
ERRATA TO COMMENTS ON THE NOP



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325
Santa Rosa, California 95404-4731

July 19, 2019

Refer to NMFS No: INQ-2019-00207

Danielle Mullen
San Francisco District, Regulatory Division
450 Golden Gate Avenue
4th Floor, Suite 1111
San Francisco, California 94102-3404

Re: Public Notice: CEMEX Eliot Facility Arroyo del Valle Realignment Project (SMP-23)
(Corps File No. 2015-00216S)

Dear Ms. Mullen:

Thank you for providing NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with an opportunity to comment on the June 21, 2019, Public Notice regarding the CEMEX Eliot Facility Arroyo del Valle Realignment Project (SMP023) (Corps File No. 2015-00216S). RMC Pacific Materials, LLC has submitted an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for a permit to construct this project pursuant to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC §1344). NMFS offers the following comments on the proposed realignment of approximately one mile of the Arroyo del Valle channel, including restoration of native aquatic vegetation and a complex mosaic of restored and connected wetland habitats.

NMFS has reviewed the figures attached to the Corps' Public Notice, and we support the proposed restoration of Arroyo del Valle. As a large tributary stream to Alameda Creek, Arroyo del Valle could serve an important role in the restoration of threatened Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in the Alameda Creek watershed. At present, access for anadromous fish into Alameda Creek is blocked by a large grade control structure in the Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel approximately 10 miles upstream of San Francisco Bay (*i.e.*, the BART Weir). Thus, under current conditions, there are no listed anadromous fish or designated critical habitat under the jurisdiction of NMFS in Arroyo del Valle. However, efforts are actively underway to restore fish passage in lower Alameda Creek and it is anticipated that threatened CCC steelhead will again have access to the upper watershed, including Arroyo del Valle, as early as 2021.

NMFS recommends the Arroyo del Valle realignment/restoration component of the CEMEX Eliot Facility Project incorporate stream habitat restoration elements beneficial to supporting the freshwater life stages of steelhead as well as benefitting other native fish and riparian plant communities. The restoration design should contain alternating riffles, pools, and pool-tails with suitable gravel for use as spawning substrate for steelhead. Large woody debris (logs, rootwads), boulders, and coarse substrate in the restored creek will add beneficial complexity for rearing juveniles by providing shelter and cover. Additionally, creating and allowing stream connection to off-channel and floodplain habitat creates areas of low water velocity refugia for juvenile steelhead, as well as providing areas to feed and grow. NMFS staff is available to assist with the



development of the channel restoration design and would appreciate the opportunity to review the full set of stream restoration plans prior to the Corps' permitting of the project.

The Public Notice does not specify when project construction is expected to occur. Please note that CCC steelhead will likely have access to the upper Alameda Creek watershed, including this project site, as early as 2021. If the project is not completed by 2020, threatened CCC steelhead may be affected by construction activities and consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with NMFS would be necessary.

Please contact Andrew Trent, North-Central Coast Office in Santa Rosa at 707-578-8553, or andrew.trent@noaa.gov if you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,



Gary Stern
San Francisco Bay Branch Chief
North-Central Coast Office

cc: Jennifer Siu, EPA Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Sean Cochran, CDFW, Santa Rosa, CA
Brian Wines, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Oakland, CA
Joseph Terry, USFWS, Sacramento, CA
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