RFP Questions & Responses

Mokelumne River Floodplain Habitat Restoration Project (FW2-26)

1. **Please confirm whether river water may be used for compaction and dust control, in addition to gravel washing. If so, is the Contractor responsible for obtaining a water diversion permit or authorization, or can existing project permits be used?**

The project specifications provided in Addendum #3 outline the anticipated use of Mokelumne River water for certain construction activities, along with applicable pumping requirements and environmental protection measures. Any proposed water withdrawals must comply with applicable regulatory requirements and be coordinated with EBMUD. The need for additional permits or authorizations will be evaluated as the project advances through final design and permitting.

2. **Based on prior experience or available geotechnical data, what yield of specified spawning gravel can be expected when screening excavated material from these sites?**

The anticipated yield of suitable spawning gravel from excavated material has not been quantified at this stage of design. Proposers should review the available technical information provided in the 70% Design Final Design Report and supporting appendices and use their professional experience and judgment to develop reasonable assumptions regarding gravel recovery rates, processing requirements, and associated construction costs. Proposers should clearly identify these assumptions in their construction cost estimates. Actual gravel yields may vary depending on site conditions and may be further evaluated as the project advances through final design and construction.

3. **Per the specifications (Section 41 11 01, Gravel Processing) spawning gravel is used to fill the existing backwater pond. Can you clarify if the backwater pond fill is composed of a mix of materials or primarily gravel?**

The proposed backwater pond fill at the Upstream Conservation Easement Site is intended to consist primarily of processed spawning gravel sourced from on-site excavations and screened and washed to meet the gradation requirements specified in Section 41 11 01 (Gravel Processing). The primary objective of the gravel placement is to improve juvenile salmonid rearing habitat while reducing conditions that promote the establishment of invasive aquatic vegetation. Accordingly, some flexibility in substrate composition may be appropriate. If sufficient quantities of material meeting the specified spawning gravel gradation are unavailable, alternative substrate sizes, including smaller gravel or larger cobble, may be considered, provided they support the intended habitat objectives. Any proposed modifications to the substrate composition shall be evaluated during final design and are subject to EBMUD review and approval.

4. **Should the contractor assume the backwater pond will contain standing water and fish during the construction phase, requiring dewatering and fish rescue before it's filled? If so, where can the pumped water be discharged?**

The proposed work at the Colburn Upstream Site involves placing processed spawning gravel within the existing backwater pond to improve habitat conditions and achieve habitat-suitability criteria consistent with in-channel juvenile salmonid rearing habitat. The intent is not to completely fill the pond. Therefore, complete dewatering and full-pond fish salvage are not currently anticipated. Localized water management and fish-protection measures may be necessary depending on existing conditions, the selected construction approach, and applicable regulatory requirements. Proposers should account for these considerations in their proposed methodology. If localized pumping or dewatering is necessary, the proposed discharge location and methods shall be coordinated with EBMUD and comply with applicable project specifications, water-quality requirements, and regulatory permit conditions. Direct discharge of sediment-laden water into the Mokelumne River shall not be permitted.

5. **Backfill and earthen features require mechanical compaction in uniform lifts. Please identify the required compaction testing method and frequency for each fill application, such as pond fill, the setback berm, and general grading.**

The project specifications provided in Addendum #3 establish preliminary compaction requirements and identify applicable testing methods. However, specific testing frequencies for individual fill applications have not yet been established. Proposers should review the available project specifications and supporting technical documents and draw upon their professional engineering and construction experience to develop reasonable assumptions regarding compaction testing requirements. These assumptions should be clearly identified in their proposed technical approach and construction cost estimates. Final compaction requirements and testing frequencies may be refined as the project advances from 70% to 100% design, subject to geotechnical review and EBMUD approval.

6. **Would block nets installed upstream and downstream of active in-water work areas, combined with full-time biological monitoring, be acceptable as the fish exclusion measure?**

As these specifics have not yet been determined, EBMUD encourages proposers to draw on their required five years of floodplain design and construction experience when developing their proposals.

7. **Can you please provide guidance regarding the requested grades, maximum fill heights, side slopes, and stabilization requirements associated with each spoil storage area? Can spoil area footprints be modified to ensure select area accommodates the directed work activities and storage requirements?**

The project specifications provided in Addendum #3 establish preliminary requirements for spoil storage areas. Specific grading configurations, maximum fill heights, and other site-specific details will be further evaluated as the project advances from 70% to 100% design.

Proposers should review the available project documents and draw upon their engineering and construction experience to recommend appropriate spoil storage configurations that accommodate anticipated construction activities and material storage requirements.

Proposers may also recommend modifications to the proposed spoil storage footprints where appropriate. Any proposed modifications should be identified and justified in the technical approach and will be subject to EBMUD review and approval, as well as applicable regulatory requirements.

8. **Is EBMUD able to share any additional information related to the conservation easements so we can better understand what types of activities are and are not allowed within these easements?**

EBMUD is not providing additional documentation regarding the conservation easements as part of this RFP. For purposes of preparing their proposals, proposers may assume that the types of construction and restoration activities permitted at the Mokelumne River Day Use Area (MRDUA) Site are also permissible at both Conservation Easement Sites, provided the activities are consistent with the project scope, specifications, and applicable regulatory requirements. Any site-specific restrictions or additional requirements will be addressed in coordination with EBMUD as the project advances through final design and construction.

9. **Would it be possible to get a planholders list for the project?**

EBMUD is not maintaining a planholders list for this RFP. Therefore, no planholders list is available for distribution.

10. **We see that 9,600 CY will be sorted and washed for Colburn US site. How much for the DS site? How much for the day use area?**

The estimated quantities for "Sort Excavated Sediment for Spawning Gravel" are provided in the RFP addenda. Separate quantities are identified for the Mokelumne River Day Use Area (MRDUA) and the combined Conservation Easement Sites.

The bid schedule does not specify how the total quantity for the Conservation Easement Sites is to be distributed between the Colburn Upstream and Colburn Downstream Sites.

Proposers should use the quantities provided in the bid schedules as the baseline for their construction cost estimates and draw upon their engineering and construction experience to recommend an appropriate approach for gravel processing and material distribution between the two Conservation Easement Sites. Proposed approaches should be described in the technical methodology and may be further refined during final design in coordination with EBMUD.

11. The riffle design goals and performance details are not explained in the BOD. What are the intended goals of the rock vanes and notches in the riffles?

The primary objective of the proposed riffle features is to improve instream habitat conditions for both juvenile and adult Chinook salmon and steelhead by increasing habitat complexity, enhancing hydraulic diversity, and providing suitable water depths and velocities for juvenile rearing and spawning.

The rock vanes and notches are intended to help establish and maintain desirable hydraulic conditions within the constructed riffles, including variations in water depth and velocity, localized flow concentration, and hydraulic connectivity across a range of river flows. These features are also intended to support channel stability and the long-term functionality of the restored habitat.

The current riffle configurations represents preliminary design concepts developed at the 70% design stage and are not intended to prescribe the final design. EBMUD expects the selected consultant to evaluate and refine these features as the project advances to 100% design, drawing upon its engineering, hydraulic modeling, construction, and fisheries expertise.

Given the project's combined design and construction approach, EBMUD encourages proposers to critically evaluate the existing designs and recommend alternative configurations or improvements where their professional experience suggests a more effective approach. Proposers should describe how their proposed designs would achieve the project's ecological and hydraulic objectives while considering habitat suitability, sediment transport, constructability, and long-term stability. Technically justified modifications that improve habitat performance or project implementation are encouraged and will be considered as part of the proposal evaluation process.

Final riffle configurations will be developed collaboratively with EBMUD, with the selected consultant responsible for the engineering design and EBMUD retaining review and approval authority.

12. The planting windows and specified installation timeframes generally fall outside the in-water and earthwork windows. What are EBMUD's expectations for completing the revegetation and stabilization work each season, given that seeding is to occur after October 15 and some planting and collection activities are allowed through March 31 of the following year?

The project specifications provided in Addendum #3 establish the anticipated construction, planting, and seeding windows. These separate work windows are intended to accommodate seasonal conditions and support successful habitat restoration.

Proposers should review the available project specifications and draw upon their professional experience to develop an appropriate construction and revegetation schedule. Proposed approaches should account for seasonal work restrictions, temporary erosion and sediment control measures, and the timely completion of revegetation and site stabilization activities.

All proposed activities must comply with applicable permit conditions and project specifications. Final construction sequencing and revegetation schedules will be coordinated with EBMUD as the project advances through final design and implementation.

13. **Question & Response #19 (RFP FW2 26 Questions and Responses) says that EBMUD anticipates obtaining the CVFPB encroachment permit by June 2027 and that they will try to streamline the process. However, Question 24 (page 5) says the anticipated construction window is May 1 – October 1, with an IWWW of June 15 – October 31. Does this mean work on the floodplain would be delayed until June?**

That is a possibility. This topic was described explicitly during the optional site visit, and as you noted in the RFP FW2 26 Questions and Responses.

EBMUD is actively coordinating with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to streamline the permitting process and obtain the required Encroachment Permit as early as possible. Although permit issuance is currently anticipated by June 2027, this date is preliminary and subject to regulatory agency review.

The anticipated construction window represents the period during which construction activities may occur, subject to applicable regulatory approvals and environmental restrictions. Construction activities within CVFPB jurisdiction that require an Encroachment Permit cannot commence until the permit has been issued. However, certain activities outside CVFPB jurisdiction may be able to proceed earlier, provided all other required permits and authorizations have been obtained and the activities comply with applicable environmental work windows.

EBMUD encourages proposers to develop a realistic construction schedule that considers the anticipated permitting timelines and identifies opportunities to sequence or phase activities to minimize delays. Proposers should describe how they would prioritize construction activities while maintaining regulatory compliance and advancing habitat restoration as efficiently as possible.