



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
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September 1, 2005

Ms. Alynn Kjeldsen
Permit & Resource Management Department
Environmental Review Division
2550 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Kjeldsen:

Subject: Amendment to the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) Order for the Russian River Summer Crossings Project

File: Russian River Summer Crossings, Guerneville, Sonoma County
WDID No. 1B02180WNSO and 1B02206WNSO

On July 13, 2005, Ms. Alynn Kjeldsen of Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department, Environmental Review Division, submitted a Request for an Amendment to the existing Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) Order for the Russian River Summer Crossings Project. The amendment request is based on two changes to the permitted project. The Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) has received a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Restoration Center, and proposes to construct six new bridge piers and one new abutment at the temporary summer bridge crossing on Odd Fellows Park Road. The piers will enable the summer crossing to be installed by bridging the entire, and majority of, the flowing channel of the Russian River. The summer crossing is installed only during the summer months when flow of the Russian River is relatively low. The project goal is to improve fish habitat and water quality at the project site and reduce annual costs associated with the gravel road installations.

Amended Project Description: The first change to the previously submitted project plans includes the discharge of up to 110 cubic yards (480 square feet) of fill material and 350 cubic yards of dredged material below the plane of ordinary high water over a two-year period to facilitate construction of six permanent concrete piers placed at 22-foot intervals across the 180-foot-wide riverbed on the lower reach of the Russian River, at Odd Fellows Park Road.

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Each pier consists of four, 30-foot-long steel “H” piles driven into the riverbed, and a combined pre-cast base partially buried in the riverbed and extending one foot above the summer low flow water level and poured-in-place concrete to form the remainder of the pier structure.

After the seasonal removal of the imported “compactable” roadbed material, pier construction work will begin near the existing piers adjacent to the north bank and proceed towards the south bank. A single bridge abutment is to be constructed on the south bank, landward and above the plane of ordinary high water. A concrete cap will be constructed between the columns to support the portable bridge sections. Piers would be set 22 feet apart to enable 25 foot length bridge decks, the maximum size and weight the county crane can lift. The new bridge width will be consistent with the existing bridge width at 14 feet wide (one lane).

The project is expected to take approximately three to four months to complete, therefore the second requested change to the existing permit is to allow the project to proceed until October 31st rather than October 15th.

CEQA Compliance:

The DTPW, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and prepared the *Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Initial Study and Mitigation Monitoring Program – Odd Fellows Park Road Restoration Project, May 2005* (Resolution No. 05-0712-1).

Revised Additional Condition #8:

- 8) Removal of crossings in the flowing water shall be completed by October 15 in the case of the Summer Crossing Road at Guernwood Park, and Vacation Beach Avenue at Vacation Beach crossings. The bridge pier construction work and associated dredge and fill material discharges shall begin after the Labor Day Weekend and shall be completed no later than October 31st of any year of the five-year permit authorization period.

New Additional

Conditions:

Pursuant to CCRs, Title 23, Section 3859(a), the Applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

- 17) All bridge pier construction work shall be completely confined to the existing footprint of the seasonal roadbed to minimize any incidental discharge of material into flowing water, and shall follow the proposed methods outlined in the *Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Initial Study and Mitigation Monitoring Program – Odd Fellows Park Road Restoration Project, May 2005*.
- 18) Any turbid groundwater and/or concrete slurry waste encountered during excavation and pier construction operations shall be pumped from the pier foundation pit into a storage tank or other containment vessel to preclude any discharges to the Russian River.
- 19) Mitigation and monitoring measures shall be conducted as outlined in the *Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Initial Study and Mitigation Monitoring Program – Odd Fellows Park Road Restoration Project, May 2005*.

I hereby issue an amendment to the Russian River Summer Crossings Water Quality Certification Order (WDID No. 1B02180WNSO and 1B02206WNSO) certifying that the Water Quality Certification and Expiration sections of the Order are still valid. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Andrew Jensen of my staff at (707) 576-2683.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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cc: Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Mr. Dick Butler, National Marine Fisheries Service, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Suite 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Mr. Brian Hines, Trout Unlimited, 1120 College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Mr. Don McEnhill, River Keepers, P.O. Box 1335, Healdsburg, CA 95448

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