



Dan Skopec
Acting Secretary

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
William R. Massey, Chairman

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 8, 2006

Mr. Jack and Mary L. Noble
P.O. Box 365
Fortuna, CA 95540

Dear Mr. and Ms. Noble:

Subject: Coverage under Order No. R1-2005-0011, "General Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for Discharges Related to Sand and Gravel Mining, Excavation, and Processing Activities, Including Asphalt and Concrete Operations, on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region"

File: Noble, Jack – Van Duzen River Gravel Extraction Operations
WDID No. 1B05114WNHU

On August 12, 2005, you submitted an application to this office for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements for gravel extraction operations on the Van Duzen River in Humboldt County. On June 21, 2005, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2005-0011, "General Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for Discharges Related to Sand and Gravel Mining, Excavation, and Processing Activities, Including Asphalt and Concrete Operations, on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region (General WDR). Initial review of your application indicated that your gravel extraction activities would be eligible for coverage under the General WDR.

On September 28, 2005, we posted a public notice for your project on our web site and a 21-day public comment period has taken place. We received comments during the public comment period. Several comments do not pertain to water quality or related issues within our jurisdiction, such as allegations that your proposed sand and gravel extraction activities are not consistent with the Federal and State laws for Wild and Scenic Rivers. Regional Water Board staff considered those comments that pertain to water quality issues within the Regional Water Board's jurisdiction and we postponed issuance of coverage under the General WDR until we visited the site and received all of the necessary documentation for coverage under the General WDR, including demonstration of coverage under the General Industrial Storm Water Permit. We also received a copy of your Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Regional Water Board staff have determined that authorized discharges from your proposed gravel extraction operations will comply with the applicable provisions of the Clean Water Act and State law. This letter hereby informs you that your proposed aggregate extraction activities on the Van Duzen River and your aggregate processing operations are now subject to the requirements of General WDR Order No. R1-2005-0011. Please be advised that coverage under

California Environmental Protection Agency

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General WDR Order No. R1-2005-0011 is limited to the gravel extraction activities authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The identification number for this project file will be WDID No. 1B05114WNHU. This number should be included on all future correspondence related to this matter. This coverage does not authorize any other dredge or fill activities that are subject to separate authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, such as bank stabilization projects.

We encourage all appropriate personnel to review and become familiar with the discharge requirements and prohibitions contained in the General WDR. Please call Dean Prat of our staff at (707) 576-2801 if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Catherine E. Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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Enclosure: Order No. R1-2005-0011, "General Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for Discharges Related to Sand and Gravel Mining, Excavation, and Processing Activities, Including Asphalt and Concrete Operations, on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region"

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, P.O. Box 4863, Eureka, CA 95502
Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105