



California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

John W. Corbett, Chairman

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

July 10, 2007

Ms. Patricia Hickey
Gold Ridge RCD
2020 Barlow Lane
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Ms. Hickey:

Subject: Amendment to the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) Order for the Spaletta Ranch Project

File: Gold Ridge RCD, Spaletta Ranch Project
WDID No. 1B06015WNMA

On June 29, 2007, Ms. Patricia Hickey, on behalf of the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (Gold Ridge RCD)(Applicant) submitted a Request for an Amendment to the existing Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) Order for the Spaletta Ranch Repair Project. The project was originally permitted on January 3, 2007. The amendment request is based on an addition to the Water Quality Certification to include the repair of five small to large active head-cuts that were not included in the original Water Quality Certification.

Amended Project Description: The amendment to the Water Quality Certification includes five active head-cuts downstream of the planned wet crossing. As these head-cuts erode upstream they have a potential to produce 1,500 cubic yards to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment or more into the Estero Americano over the next 10 years. Left unchecked the head-cuts could eventually threaten the upstream wet crossing project.

The three largest upstream head-cuts include: head-cut #1 (10'W x 6'H), head-cut #2 (17'W x 5'H) and head-cut #3 (7'W x 4'H) will be repaired by boulder grade control structures. The furthest upstream head-cut (#1) will have an extra deep toe to mitigate for the smaller downstream head-cuts if they continue to move upstream. The downstream smaller head-cuts will not be repaired with rock, but will be planted with woody vegetation to slow their upstream migration.

All work shall be completed using the standards and Best Management Practices agreed upon in the original Water Quality Certification.

CEQA Compliance: The Regional Water Board determined in the original Water Quality Certification that the project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15333–Small Habitat Restoration, pursuant to CEQA.

Expiration: The authorization of this amendment for any dredge and fill activities expires on October 15, 2009. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this amendment or the original certification are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

I hereby issue an amendment to the Spaletta Ranch Project Water Quality Certification Order (WDID No. 1B06015WNSO) certifying that the Water Quality Certification section of the Order is still valid. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Stephen Bargsten of my staff at (707) 576-2653 or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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cc: Mr. Bill Orme, SWRCB, Acting 401 Program Manager,

Ms. Samantha Olson, SWRCB, Office of the Chief Counsel

Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions,
1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1398

Mr. Bill Cox, California Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 47,
Yountville, CA 94599