
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 9, 2012

Ms. Renee Pasquinelli
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 440
Mendocino, CA 95460

Dear Ms. Pasquinelli:

Subject: Amendment to the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) Order for California Department of Parks and Recreation, Big River Watershed Restoration Project, Mendocino County, California

File: CDPR – Big River Watershed Restoration
WDID No. 1B06095WNME

On September 3, 2010, Ms. Renee Pasquinelli of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) submitted a Request for an Amendment to the existing Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Order), issued on April 27, 2007, for the CDPR Big River Watershed Restoration Project. On August 14, 2012, an updated amendment request including amended plans for the project was received by email from Mr. Michael Miller of Mendocino Land Trust, on behalf of CDPR. The requests to amend the Order are based on a need to extend the expiration date of the Order, and to replace seven culverts along the Main Haul Road. The purpose of the project remains the stabilization of the roadway and rehabilitation of the drainage system, and to minimize sediment transport.

This Amendment authorizes the following:

- 1. The Main Haul Road is a riparian road that parallels the main stem of Big River. It provides access to the interior of the Park. This project will replace six culverts between mile markers 6.49 - 7.78 and one Class I stream crossing at mile marker 4.08 (Nelson Gulch). These culverts were identified by DFG on a pre-consult site visit and prioritized for replacement due to rusting, being undersized, or erosion issues at the outfall. The MM 4.05 crossing's inlet did not allow for juvenile fish access at low tide.**

Design specifications were developed by CA Geological Survey. All culvert replacements will meet the 100 year flow requirements. Additionally, the culvert at MM 4.08 will be embedded to provide for a natural channel bottom and will be accessible at low tide to juvenile fish. The benefits of the project include: reduction of sediment loading to the Big River estuary, and to allow juvenile fish access at low tide to the Nelson Gulch tributary.

- 2. Amended work within the project shall be performed according to design plans submitted within the August 14, 2012 Amendment request, and any subsequent plans approved by Regional Water Board Staff.**
- 3. The expiration date of the Order shall be October 9, 2017.**

I hereby issue an amendment to the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Order for California Department of Parks and Recreation, Big River Watershed Restoration Project (WDID No. 1B06095WNME) certifying that the remainder of 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.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Luis Rivera For

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

121009_Big_River_Watershed_Restoration_401_Amendment

Electronic copy to: Mr. Michael Miller, mmiller@mendocinolandtrust.org