



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
Geoffrey M. Hales, Chairman**

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Arnold  
Schwarzenegger  
Governor

April 22, 2010

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In the Matter of

**Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for  
Minor Dredging and Fill Activities**

for the

**Rudy Light, West Fork Russian River Streambank Stabilization Project  
11535 East Road, Redwood Valley  
WDID NO. 1B08069WNME**

APPLICANT: Mr. Rudy Light  
RECEIVING WATER: West Fork Russian River  
HYDROLOGIC AREA: Forsythe Creek Hydrologic Unit Subarea No. 114.33,  
Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00  
COUNTY: Mendocino County  
FILE NAME: Rudy Light, West Fork Russian River Streambank  
Stabilization Project

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BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. This Notice of Coverage provides notice that certain activities are covered by the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities (Waiver), which was adopted pursuant to California Water Code Section 13269 by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (Regional Water Board) in Resolution 2007-0098. On April 17, 2008, Mr. Evan Engber, on behalf of Mr. Rudy Light, (Applicant), filed an application for water quality certification under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements for dredge/fill activities, with the Regional Water Board for activities associated with the Rudy Light, West Fork Russian River Streambank Stabilization project (Project) in Mendocino County. The total fee in the amount of \$500 was received on the same day.

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

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2. The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on January 8, 2009, and posted information describing the Project on the Regional Water Board's website. No comments were received.
3. The latitude and longitude of the Project are 39.307448° N and 123.216757° W respectively. The project includes the Assessors Parcels Number (APN) 262-170-043.
4. As described in the application, the Project involves stream stabilization in seven separate areas and sub-areas along approximately 2,500 linear feet of the West Fork Russian River. The project causes permanent impacts to approximately 900 feet of streambed and bank within this 2,500 foot reach. Stabilization techniques will consist primarily of bioengineering such as using willow sprigging within existing/repositioned riprap, live willow siltation baffles, live willow clusters, live willow brushes, and live willow mattresses. A minimum of riprap will be installed to reinforce existing boulder wing deflectors. Details of the project are contained in the "*Final Design for West Fork Russian River Survey at Ownership of Rudy Light*", prepared by Bioengineering Associates, and submitted to the Regional Water Board on April 8, 2010. Work will be done during the dry season, and irrigation will be provided for plants where necessary.
5. Compensatory mitigation will not be required as the project itself consists of habitat restoration and reduction of sediment delivered into the river.
6. Willow plantings shall have a minimum survival rate of 85% by the end of the fifth year after planting.
7. An annual monitoring report on the status of the mitigation shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board by December 31 of each year of the five year monitoring period, or until minimum survival or coverage rates have been achieved. Reports shall include survival percentage, and height of planted trees. Number of replacement plants and overall condition of the Project shall also be reported. Photographs from established photo stations shall be included.
8. Permits and agreements issued from other agencies are included in the application package for the Project and shall be complied with.
9. California Department of Fish and Game issued a Streambed Alteration Agreement (No. R1-08-0159) on August 25, 2008.
10. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit is not required, as stated in their email from Ms. Laurie Monarres, dated March 15, 2010.

11. At a minimum, the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion: work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season; installation of construction barrier fencing to preclude equipment entry into sensitive areas; installation of silt fencing and/or fiber rolls to prevent sediment loss from immediate work area; topsoil salvage and reapplication; and seeding and mulching. All required BMPs shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before start of the wet season. If construction needs to continue past October 31st, Applicant may contact Regional Water Board Staff and extend the work period on a day by day basis, contingent on appropriate expected weather conditions.
12. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface waters occurs, or any situation arises that compromises water quality and its beneficial uses, the Applicant shall immediately cease work on the project and notify the Regional Water Board.
13. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Notice of Coverage, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
14. The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has adopted Categorical Waivers for Resolution 2007-0098, on December 6, 2007, pursuant to CEQA.
15. The California Department of Fish and Game, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects, and recorded a Notice of Exemption with the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse Number 2008098143 on September 11, 2008, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.

Receiving Water: West Fork Russian River  
Forsythe Creek Hydrologic Unit Subarea No. 114.33  
Russian River Hydrologic Area No. 114.00

Filled or Excavated Area: Permanent impact to 900 linear feet of river bed and bank

Latitude/Longitude: 39.307448° N / 123.216757° W

Expiration: April 22, 2015

ACCORDINGLY, BASED ON ITS INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE RECORD, THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD CERTIFIES THAT THE RUDY LIGHT, WEST FORK RUSSIAN RIVER STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT (FACILITY NO. 1B08069WNME), as described in the Application, is hereby covered under the Waiver, provided that Project complies with the following terms and conditions:

1. Some or all of the Russian River watershed is identified on the State of California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment, temperature, mercury, low dissolved oxygen, pathogens, pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, and specific conductance. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analyses have not been completed for the Russian River watershed sediment and temperature listings. Activities that impact the riparian zone and riparian vegetation are identified as sources contributing to increased stream temperatures and sediment. If a TMDL implementation plan is adopted prior to the expiration date of this Notice of Coverage, the Regional Water Board may revise the provisions of this Notice of Coverage to address actions identified in such action plans.
2. Since the Project involves construction that may adversely affect waters of the State, the Regional Water Board has regulatory jurisdiction under Water Code Section 13269.
3. This Notice of Coverage is contingent on compliance with all applicable requirements of the North Coast Region Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), except as may be modified by the specific conditions of the Notice of Coverage.
4. The Applicant shall construct the Project in accordance with the conditions described in the application and the findings herein, and shall comply with all applicable water quality standards.
5. Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the project site to document compliance with this Notice of Coverage.
6. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Notice of Coverage and attachments to the contractor and all subcontractors conducting the work, and require that copies remain in their possession at the work site. The Applicant shall be responsible for work conducted by its contractor or subcontractors.
7. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Notice of Coverage, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable State or federal law.

8. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface waters occurs, or any situation arises that compromises water quality and its beneficial uses, Applicant shall immediately cease work on the project and notify the Regional Water Board.
9. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Notice of Coverage, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
10. Applicant shall prioritize use of wildlife-friendly 100% biodegradable erosion control products/BMPs wherever feasible. For purposes of this Notice of Coverage, photodegradable synthetic products are not considered biodegradable. Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products, that contain synthetic (e.g., plastic or nylon) netting or materials for permanent erosion control (i.e., erosion control materials to be left in place for two years or after the completion date of the project). If the Applicant finds that erosion control netting or products have entrapped or harmed wildlife, the Applicant shall remove the netting or product and replace it with wildlife-friendly biodegradable products. The Applicant shall not use or allow the use of soil stabilization products that contain synthetic materials within waters of the United States or waters of the State at any time. Applicant shall remove any remaining synthetic netting or materials remaining at the end of two years, or sooner.
11. This Notice of Coverage is not transferable. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the applicant, the applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this Notice of Coverage by letter and shall forward a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board. The successor-in-interest must send to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer a written request for transfer of this Notice of Coverage to discharge dredged or fill material under this Notice of Coverage. The request must contain the following:
  - i. requesting entity's full legal name
  - ii. the state of incorporation, if a corporation
  - iii. address and phone number of contact person
  - iv. description of any changes to the project or confirmation that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the project as described in this Notice of Coverage
12. Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicant's project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Basin Plan.
13. The authorization of this Notice of Coverage for any dredge and fill activities expires on April 22, 2015. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this

Notice of Coverage are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

14. Any change to the operation of the Project that would have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Notice of Coverage must be submitted to the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board for prior review and written approval.
15. The construction activity meets the eligibility criteria for the Waiver and, if constructed as described in the Application and in compliance with the above-listed conditions, the Project will adhere to applicable water quality standards. A monitoring and reporting program is required as described in the application. Therefore, I have determined that the Project is covered by the Waiver.
16. The following is a partial listing highlighting selected standard provisions from Resolution R1-2007-0098:
  - a. "The Applicant shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region."
  - b. "The Applicant shall discharge only in accordance with the submitted Report of Waste Discharge or equivalent (i.e., the Application)."
  - c. "The Project shall not create a pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by California Water Code Section 13050."
  - d. "There shall be no discharge of any waste not specifically regulated by waivers in Resolution R1-2007-0098."
  - e. "The Applicant shall allow Regional Water Board staff reasonable access onto the affected property for the purpose of performing an inspection to determine compliance with waiver conditions."
17. The following from Resolution R1-2007-0098 apply specifically to dredge and fill activities.

"The Applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

- a. Discharges shall be non-toxic, short term, discharges to land.
- b. The Project shall not result in a net loss of wetlands or beneficial uses.
- c. This Notice of Coverage is valid only if operations are not being covered by General Waste Discharge Requirements."

18. Please be aware that a failure to implement the Project according to the project description and other information submitted in the Application, or violation of any of the terms contained in the Waiver and this Notice of Coverage, may result in the revocation of coverage under the Waiver and the initiation of formal enforcement proceedings as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.
19. Enclosed is a copy of the Waiver Policy for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities, Resolution No. R1-2007-0098.

Please contact Stephen Bargsten of our staff at (707) 576-2653 if you have any questions.

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Catherine Kuhlman  
Executive Officer

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Enclosure: Waiver Policy (Res. R1-2007-0098)

Original sent to: Mr. Rudy Light, P.O. Box 736, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Copies sent to: Mr. Evan Engber, Bioengineering Associates, P.O. Box 1554,  
Laytonville, CA 95454

Mr. Bill Orme, SWRCB, 401 Program Manager, Clean Water Act  
Section 401 Certification and Wetlands Unit Program

Ms. Kim Niemeyer, SWRCB, Office of the Chief Counsel

Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory  
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Ms. Tracie Nelson, California Department of Fish and Game,  
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