



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
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**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Geoffrey M. Hales, Chairman**

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**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

June 1, 2010

In the Matter of
Water Quality Certification
for the

**Sonoma County PRMD, Russian River Summer Crossings
Asti - Washington School Road, and
Guerneville - Vacation Beach Road
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B10033WNSO)**

APPLICANT: Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management
Department

RECEIVING WATER: Russian River

HYDROLOGIC AREA: Geyserville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25, and
Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11,
Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00

COUNTY: Sonoma County

FILE NAME: So Co PRMD – Asti & Vac. Beach Russian River Summer
Crossings

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On April 8, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Richard Stabler, of Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) (Applicant), requesting a Federal Clean Water Act, section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Sonoma County PRMD, Russian River Summer Crossings, Asti – Washington School Road, and Guerneville – Vacation Beach Road (Project), in Sonoma County. This is a continuation of the same activities that have previously received Certifications. The total fee of \$4,260 was also received on April 8, 2010. The project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 3.5 acres of streamcourse of the Russian River, Geyserville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25, and Guerneville Hydrologic

California Environmental Protection Agency

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Subarea No. 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00. The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on April 29, 2010, and posted information describing the Project on the Regional Water Board's website. No comments were received.

2. Project is for two summer crossings located along the Russian River, the upstream crossing on Washington School Road near Asti, latitude 38.764554°N, and longitude 122.968013°W; and the downstream crossing located on Vacation Beach Road near Guerneville, latitude 38.48313°N, and longitude 123.011035°W, both in Sonoma County.
3. The purpose of the project is to continue the annual installation of the two summer crossings, to provide vehicular access across the river for emergency services, local resident, recreational users and tourists during the summer months.
4. Activities associated with the annual summer bridge installations include:
 - Asti – Washington School Road crossing: One or two temporary bridge spans may be installed depending on the configuration of the river channel. If the river is flowing in the eastern portion of the channel, a gravel roadway will be built from the west side of the river until it meets with the 60-foot long, two-span temporary bridge. If the river is flowing in the western portion of the channel, a 100-foot Bailey bridge will be used to span the active channel, and the gravel crossing will be built from the eastern bank. It is possible that both of these temporary bridges need to be used. The Asti crossing will be built by collecting gravel from the downstream nearby gravel bar(s) to form the roadway. Gravel is only skimmed from dry gravel bars and care is taken to leave a smooth surface sloping toward the river. Imported gravel will not be used. The on-site gravel is high quality with minimal amounts of sediment; however, it is also screened until free of fine sediment. Only clean screened gravel and cobbles, above ¼ inch diameter, are used at the base of the road and areas contacting the flowing channel. The clean screened gravel may need to be extended into the flowing channel to connect with the first pier of the bridge, this area ranging from approximately 15 to 70 feet in width. Gravel containing fines for compactable road base, is pushed from stockpiles (from previous year) on Washington School road, and only applied to the top layer of the roadway. Maximum total gravel road length is approximately 510 feet long. When the crossing is removed, the bridge decks are taken off the piers and stored at the end of River road. The gravel road is skimmed and pushed with a large bulldozer to the water level. Gravel is smoothed to similar contours of the adjacent gravel bar. Some of the on-site gravel, including the compactable road surface containing fines is scraped, stockpiled above river flow on Washington School Road, and protected from erosion, for use the next year. The gravel that was placed in flowing water and is still inundated remains in

flowing water to be dispersed with the increased flows of winter. Techniques to protect fish and other aquatic creatures during installation and removal are employed and are conditioned by California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA Fisheries. This crossing may be installed no earlier than May 15 of each year and may remain installed until November 15 which is typically the official closure of the fire season by Cal Fire.

- Guerneville – Vacation Beach Road crossing: The Guerneville – Vacation Beach Road crossing consists of a 60 foot long temporary bridge spanning the deep water channel on the north side of the river and connects to the south side of the river at Vacation Beach Avenue. A gravel bar consistently forms on the south side of the river that extends approximately half the channel width. Clean, river-run gravel will be imported to construct the base of the road, and on-site and stockpiled material is used on top of the imported material to build a road across the river channel to meet up with the bridge pier. The approximate length of the roadway is approximately 230 feet. Removal of the Guerneville – Vacation Beach Road crossing follows the same method as the Asti crossing. On-site material is stockpiled, and protected from erosion, on the south approach road and the bridge decks are stored on the north side of the crossing. This crossing allows access to the adjacent, upstream, summer dam, as well as allowing immediate access across the river for vehicles. This crossing may be installed no earlier than June 15 of each year and may remain installed until October 15.
5. Non-compensatory mitigation and erosion control measures include relocating of some of the gravel road material to adjacent on-site storage locations above the flow of the river, stabilization, seeding, and/or covering the stockpiles to minimize erosion, sediment input, and turbidity during the winter and spring months. Clean screened (Asti crossing) and/or clean washed river run gravel (Vacation Beach crossing) shall be used for the base of the crossings.
 6. Sonoma County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, filed a Notice of Determination, for a Mitigated Negative Declaration, State clearinghouse Number 1994033009, on February 25, 2003, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.
 7. The Applicant has received a California Department of Fish and Game Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Extension, Notification Number: 1600-2009-0109-3, issued on June 12, 2009, and expiring December 31, 2013.
 8. The Applicant has received a US Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 Individual Permit for each project. For the Asti Crossing, Permit No.

27252N; for the Guerneville – Vacation Beach Road Crossing, Permit No. 273010N, both issued on June 24, 2009, and expiring on December 31, 2019.

9. Because the project involves construction that may adversely affect waters of the State, the Regional Water Board has regulatory jurisdiction under Water Code Section 13269.

Receiving Water: Geyserville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25, and
Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11,
Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00

Filled or Excavated Area: 3.5 acres of temporary impact to streamcourse

Latitude/Longitude: Asti: 38.764554°N, 122.968013°W
Guerneville: 38.48313°N, 123.011035°W

Expiration: June 1, 2015

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Sonoma County PRMD, Russian River Summer Crossings, Asti – Washington School Road, and Guerneville – Vacation Beach Road (Project) (WDID No. 1B10033WNSO), as described in the application, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, provided that the Applicant complies with the following terms and conditions:

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review; including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3867.
2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3855, subdivision (b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. This Order is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under chapter 28, title 23, California Code of Regulations, and owed by the Applicant.
4. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Order (Enclosed).

5. The Russian River watershed is identified on the State of California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. The Russian River is listed as impaired for sediment and temperature. Activities that impact the riparian zone and riparian vegetation are identified as sources contributing to increased stream temperatures in the watershed. At present, there are no watershed specific total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) established for this water body. If TMDLs are established and implementation plans are adopted for this watershed prior to the expiration date of this Order, the Regional Water Board may revise the provisions of this Order to address actions identified in such action plans.
6. Applicant shall prioritize use of wildlife-friendly 100% biodegradable erosion control products/BMPs wherever feasible. For purposes of this Order, 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.
7. Applicant shall provide photos of the completed work (for both the installation and removal process) to the appropriate Regional Water Board staff person, in order to document compliance. The applicant shall also provide photos of the completed work areas after the first significant rainfall event in order to ensure that erosion control has been successful (this only applies to the removal process).
8. Applicant shall monitor both upstream and downstream turbidity at each crossing before installation/removal, during installation/removal, and after installation/removal. The results of these samples shall be reported to the Regional Water Board. Turbidity monitoring and reporting requirements may be reviewed and amended by the Regional Water Board if appropriate.
9. 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 Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Basin (Basin Plan).

10. The Applicant shall conduct the Project in accordance with the conditions described in the application and the findings above, and shall comply with all applicable water quality standards.
11. Any change to the operation of the Project that would have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Order shall be submitted to the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board for prior review and written approval.
12. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the Project site to document compliance with this Order.
13. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Order 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.
14. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated Project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented. The Regional Water Board shall be notified promptly and in no case more than 24 hours after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
15. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this Order, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State.
16. If construction dewatering is found to be necessary, the Applicant shall use a method of water disposal other than disposal to surface waters (such as land disposal) or the Applicant shall apply for permit coverage from the Regional Water Board and receive notification of coverage prior to discharge to surface waters.
17. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage and staging of vehicles and equipment shall be outside of waters of the United States and the State. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to any waters of the State or the United States. At no time shall the Applicant use any vehicle or equipment which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.
18. BMPs for erosion, sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place at commencement of, during and after any ground clearing activities, construction

activities, or any other Project activities that could result in erosion or sediment discharges to surface water.

19. All conditions required by this Order shall be included in the Plans and Specifications prepared by the Applicant for the Contractor. In addition, the Applicant shall require compliance with all conditions included in this Order in the bid contract for this Project.
20. All mitigation activities shall be completed as proposed in the application.
21. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable state or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Order. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Order, the Regional Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Order, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order as appropriate to ensure compliance.
22. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order, 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.
23. This Order 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 Order 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 Office a written request for transfer of this Order to discharge dredged or fill material under this Order. The request must contain the following:
 - a. requesting entity's full legal name
 - b. the state of incorporation, if a corporation
 - c. address and phone number of contact person
 - d. description of any changes to the Project or confirmation that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the Project as described in this Order.

24. The authorization of this Order for any dredge and fill activities expires on June 1, 2015. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Please contact Stephen Bargsten of our staff at (707) 576-2653 if you have any questions or need to report any violation of this Order.

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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Web link: State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification may be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Original to: Mr. Richard Stabler, Sonoma County PRMD, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2829

Copies sent to: Mr. Adam McKannay, California Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599

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 Functions, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1398