



Linda S. Adams  
Acting Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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

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Edmund G. Brown, Jr.,  
Governor

January 7, 2011

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In the Matter of

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

for the

**Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works  
Dry Creek Road at Lytton Springs Road Culvert Maintenance Project  
WDID No. 1B08086WNSO**

APPLICANT: Sonoma County Department of Transportation &  
Public Works

RECEIVING WATER: Lytton Springs Creek

HYDROLOGIC AREA: Warm Springs Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.24,  
Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00

COUNTY: Sonoma County

FILE NAME: SCPRMD Dry Creek at Lytton Springs Culvert Maint.

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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 May 9, 2008, Ms. Crystal Acker of Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department filed an application on behalf of Mr. John Souza of Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works (Applicant), for water quality certification under

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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 Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works Dry Creek Road at Lytton Springs Road Culvert Maintenance Project (Project), in Sonoma County. The total fee was received on the same day.

2. The latitude and longitude of the Project are 38.648995° N and 122.910656° W respectively. The project is within County owned right of way. The Project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 0.035 acres, 90 linear feet, of streambed and bank associated with Lytton Springs Creek in the Warm Springs Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.24, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.
3. The Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works will remove accumulated sediment from immediately upstream and within an existing concrete double box culvert under Dry Creek Road at Lytton Springs Creek. Approximately seven willows growing within the channel to about 25 feet downstream of the culvert will be trimmed to ground level. The purpose of the project is to restore the original capacity of the culvert and channel and reduce the potential for upstream erosion and flooding on Dry Creek and Lytton Springs Roads and adjacent properties.
4. As described in the application, the project includes use of a drag line between two cranes or a small bulldozer to excavate the culvert, and a backhoe to remove accumulated materials from within the channel. There will be a minimum of 6 inches of material left above the concrete floor of the culvert. The areas upstream of the culvert will be excavated to match the elevation of the excavated culvert and sloped up to match the existing creek bed elevations approximately 25 feet above the culvert to form a smooth grade transition. No excavation will occur downstream of the culvert. Excavated materials will be disposed of outside of Lytton Springs Creek in a permitted location. The project will occur when the channel is dry, with no work occurring in a wetted channel. Willows will be cut at surface elevation with their roots preserved. Himalayan Blackberry that overhangs the channel will be pruned back, but no other vegetation will be removed. The project is expected to be conducted within 3 days.
5. Compensatory mitigation will not be required. However, appropriate erosion control measures will be used on all disturbed areas to minimize the potential for erosion, and may include seeding with native grasses/wildflower/shrub seeds (as specified in the California Department of Fish and Game 1602 Agreement), erosion control blankets or other appropriate actions based upon site conditions. Materials excavated from the channel will be removed from the site and deposited in an appropriate upland area, outside of threat of discharge to waters of the State.

6. The Applicant has received a 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. 1600-2008-0200-3) from the California Department of Fish and Game, on August 12, 2008.
7. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have determined that the project does not require Department of the Army authorization, as stated in their email dated May 30, 2008.
8. 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.
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. 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.

Receiving Water: Lytton Creek  
Warm Springs Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.24,  
Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00

Filled or Excavated Area: Temporary impact to 0.035 acres, 90 linear feet, of  
streambed and bank

Latitude/Longitude: 38.648995° N and 122.910656° W

Expiration: January 7, 2016

**ACCORDINGLY, BASED ON ITS INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE RECORD, THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD CERTIFIES THAT THE SONOMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS DRY CREEK ROAD AT LYTTON SPRINGS ROAD CULVERT MAINTENANCE PROJECT (FACILITY NO. 1B08086WNSO), 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 January 7, 2016. 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: Policy for Waiving Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Waste Discharge (Res. R1-2007-0098)
- Original sent to: Mr. John Souza, Sonoma County Dept. of Transportation and Public Works, 2300 County Center Drive, B100, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
- Copies sent to: Ms. Crystal Acker, Sonoma County PRMD, 2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
[CAcker@sonoma-county.org](mailto:CAcker@sonoma-county.org)  
Mr. Richard Fitzgerald, California Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599.  
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