



Matt Rodriguez
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

September 8, 2011

Ms. Jennifer Silveira
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1829 South Oregon Street
Yreka, CA 96097

Dear Ms. Silveira:

Subject: Notice of Applicability for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects

File: USFWS – Lower Seiad Creek Coho Rearing Habitat Project
WDID No. 1A11164WNSI

On August 29, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received your Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of *General Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects* (General 401 Certification Order) for the USFWS – Lower Seiad Creek Coho Rearing Habitat Project (Project). The Project is located on Seiad Creek, approximately 1,300 linear feet upstream from its confluence with the Klamath River. Regional Water Board staff have determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is categorically exempt from CEQA review (section 15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects) and meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Certification Order.

The purpose of the Project is to increase juvenile salmonid rearing habitat in Seiad Creek. The Project will not only increase the watershed's capacity to produce threatened coho salmon and other anadromous fish, it will also provide a "rest stop" for fish migrating up and down the Klamath River, improving their chance for survival. The Project has been designed to mimic existing rearing areas where juvenile coho have been found.

The Project involves construction of an off-channel coho "alcove" or rearing pool adjacent and connected to Seiad Creek on property owned by the Grider Creek Land Company and Thomas Helsaple. The pool will be approximately 205 feet by 82 feet by 6 feet deep at its deepest point. Approximately 4,950 cubic yards of material will be excavated and placed at the northwestern end of the pool and on an existing adjacent fill disposal site. The pool will be fed by subsurface flow through the alluvium of Seiad Creek and ground water from Schoolhouse Gulch. The pool will also be connected to Seiad Creek by a channel at its downstream end.

Receiving Water: Seiad Creek in the Seiad Valley Hydrologic Subarea
105.33

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: None
Area Permanently Impacted: 0.7 acre of riparian habitat

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: 50 linear feet of
streambank
Length Permanently Impacted: None

Dredge Volume: None

Latitude/Longitude: 41.8437 N / 123.2068 W

Regional Water Board staff have determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Certification Order. Please be advised that coverage under the General 401 Certification Order requires implementation of the *Monitoring Plan* submitted to this office on September 6, 2011. Monitoring reports shall be submitted at least annually to document the achievement of performance standards and project goals. In addition, you must submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after project completion. Included with the NOC shall be a site map (map format requirements are listed in General 401 Certification Order) of the project location, including final boundaries or the restoration area(s), and post-project photographs. Each photograph shall include a descriptive title, date taken, photographic site, and photographic orientation. Please include the Regional Water Board's file name and WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals.

If you have any questions or comments please call Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801.

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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cc: Mr. Will Harling, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, P.O. Box 409,
Orleans, CA 95556

Electronic
Copies to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, 601 Startare Drive,
Box 14, Eureka, CA 95501
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions, 1455 Market Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398