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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 23, 2012

Ms. Sarah Beesley  
Yurok Tribe  
P.O. Box 1027  
Klamath, CA 95548

Dear Ms. Beesley:

**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:** Yurok Tribe – Hunter Creek, Enhancement of Overwintering Habitat for Salmonids (WDID No. 1A12011WNDN)

On February 21, 2012, 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 Yurok Tribe – Hunter Creek, Enhancement of Overwintering Habitat Project (Project). The Project is located on Hunter Creek in the Klamath Glen Hydrologic Subarea, approximately 7 miles upstream from the Klamath River. The Klamath Glen Hydrologic Subarea was given the highest priority rating in the California Department of Fish and Game's 2004 *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon*.

The primary purpose of the Project is to increase juvenile salmonid rearing habitat in Hunter Creek. Project objectives include extending and deepening an existing alcove, installing multiple constructed wood jams (CWJs), and planting the adjoining riparian habitats with native conifers. A temporary access trail will be created in a location that avoids and minimizes impacts to native vegetation. The access trail will not cross or enter the active stream channel. The access trail will be mulched with organic, weed-free straw at the end of the construction season and disturbed areas will be revegetated with native riparian species.

The existing alcove feature is approximately 30-feet wide by 60-feet long with depths averaging less than one foot at winter base flow. The alcove is disconnected and flows are minimal during the summer months. The alcove will be enhanced by increasing the width by up to 30 feet, increasing the length by approximately 150 feet, and deepening to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Up to 1,000 cubic yards of earthen material will be excavated and hauled to a stable upland disposal site. The Project is designed such that the alcove will remain hydrologically connected at the downstream end during most flow levels. A minimum of eight CWJs will be installed within the expanded alcove and adjoining floodplain. CWJs will mimic naturally occurring features using mechanically placed logs and whole tree material that is interlocked to create stable structures that will function under a variety of flows.

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.

Receiving Water: Hunter Creek in the Klamath Glen Hydrologic Subarea No. 105.11

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: 0.5 acre of riparian habitat  
Area Permanently Impacted: None

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: 200 linear feet of riparian habitat and 200 linear feet of streambank  
Length Permanently Impacted: None

Dredge Volume: None

Latitude/Longitude: 41.6322 N / 124.0251 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 March 19, 2012. 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 of 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.

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Catherine Kuhlman  
Executive Officer

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cc: Mr. Ryan Bourque, Green Diamond Resource Company, P.O. Box 68,  
Korbel, CA 95550

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