



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 18, 2012

Mr. Cabe Cornelius
Caltrans
P.O. Box 496073
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Cornelius:

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: CDOT, O'Neil Creek Bottom
WDID No. 1A03137WNSI

On April 20, 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 O'Neil Creek Bottom (Project). The Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with O'Neil Creek located in the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit No. 105.00 (Saied Valley Hydrologic Sub-Area 105.33). The primary purpose of the Project is to improve aquatic habitat within O'Neil Creek and improve fish passage.

The Project includes replacing existing streambed material under the O'Neil Creek Bridge, which was originally constructed as a fish passage improvement project. Since bridge construction, the stream now flows partially or entirely sub-surface through the restored streambed, which creates a fish passage barrier during low flows. The material to be placed within the streambed and channel are based on gradations from an upstream reference site and will consist of fine grained and cohesive materials, which will be replaced in compacted lifts. Staging and access to the stream will be done using the locations previously disturbed from the original fish passage bridge construction projects. A temporary stream diversion will be used to isolate the work area and convey stream flows through the projects limits. Per the direction of the California Department of Fish and Game, work within the creek includes placement of approximately 320 cubic yards of streambed materials in O'Neil Creek, extending 90 linear feet, 24 feet wide and 4 feet in depth.

Regional Water Board staff has 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: O'Neil Creek in the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit No. 105.00

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: 0.05 acres of stream channel
Area Permanently Impacted: None

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: 90 linear feet of stream channel
Length Permanently Impacted: None

Dredge Volume: 360 cubic yards

Latitude/Longitude: 41.8102 N / 123.1142 W

Regional Water Board staff has 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 Caltrans-prepared *Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal for the O'Neil Creek Bottom Project*, dated April 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 Jeremiah Puget at (707) 576-2835.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

120718_JJP_ef_CDOT_O'NeilCreekBottom_NOA

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