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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 9, 2012

Mr. Brendan O'Neil  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 123  
Duncans Mills, CA 95423

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

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

**File:** CA Dept of Parks & Recreation Austin Creek State Recreation Area Gilliam Creek Phase I  
WDID No. 1B12119WNSO

On, June 28, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order) for the CA Department of Parks & Recreation Austin Creek State Recreation Area Gilliam Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Phase I (Project). The Project is located on Gilliam Creek, tributary to East Austin Creek, Austin Creek Hydrologic Area 114.12, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00, within Austin Creek State Recreation Area, Guerneville, California. Coordinates of the project are latitude 38.5644° N, and longitude 123.0453° W. Regional 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 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

**Project Purpose and Description:**

The Project will improve in-stream habitat for migrating salmonids by installing log structures in Gilliam Creek, a major tributary to East Austin Creek. East Austin Creek and its tributaries are Coho recovery Core Areas, where installing or enhancing large wood is a recovery action that increases stream complexity and improves pool frequency. The installation of instream habitat structures creates pools and shelter beneficial to Coho habitat in the stream. The Project entails placement or repositioning

of 24 large wood logs/pieces, greater than 18 inches in diameter, at 10 separate sites. Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials. Project is expected to be implemented during the dry season of 2012.

Receiving Water: Gilliam Creek tributary to East Austin Creek,  
Austin Creek Hydrologic Sub Area 114.12,  
Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Permanently Impacted: <0.1 acres of creek bed/bank

Total Linear Impacts: Length Permanently Impacted: Approximately 300 linear  
feet of creek bed/bank

Latitude/Longitude: 38.5644° N, 123.0453° W

Regional Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Order. Please be advised that coverage under this General Order requires that Monitoring Reports be submitted at least annually documenting 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. A complete NOC includes photographs with a descriptive title, the date the photograph was taken, the name of the photographic site, the WDID number indicated above, and the photographic orientation. Please, include the project name and the WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals.

Please call Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Luis Rivera For

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Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer