
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 9, 2012

Mr. Bruce MacDonell
Russian River Wild Steelhead Society
16129 Main St. Unit B-211
Guerneville, CA 95446

Dear Mr. MacDonell:

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: Wild Steelhead Society Middle Reach Russian River Small Habitat LWD WDID No. 1B12152WNSO

On, August 3, 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 Wild Steelhead Society Middle Reach Russian River Fish Habitat Improvement (Project). The Project is located on an 8 mile reach of the Russian River, from Healdsburg Memorial Park to Wohler Bridge, Guerneville Hydrologic Area 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00, Sonoma County, California. Coordinates of the upstream start of project are latitude 38.598250° N, and longitude 122.858915° W, and the downstream end of the project are latitude 38.515642° N, and longitude 122.883324° 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 purpose of the Project is to enhance an 8 mile reach of Russian River salmon habitat, by introducing large wood rootwads (6-9 feet in diameter), at ten (10) different accessible locations in the river. The Project will improve migration and juvenile over-summering habitat for salmonids. Approximately 30 rootwads will be placed into the Russian River from the top of the bank using a mobile truck mounted crane. Rootwads will be placed at the toe of the slope of river bank during summer low flow, to create site

specific habitat sites. All the wood pieces will be unanchored and allowed to dynamically move within the channel in a natural manner. Summer observation monitoring will be conducted to track the movement of the wood pieces and to substantiate the utilization of the sites by the intended species, for a period of 3 years. Additionally, invasive plants will be removed within the riparian zone at each of the 10 sites, and the areas will be revegetated with native species. Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials. Project is expected to begin to be implemented during the dry season of 2012.

Receiving Water: Middle reach Russian River
Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Area 114.11,
Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: approximately 0.25 acres of creek bed/bank

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: Approximately 180 linear feet of creek bed/bank

Latitude/Longitude: Upstream 38.598250° N, 122.858915° W
Downstream 38.515642° N, 122.883324° 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

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer