September 21, 2012

Mr. Dawit Zeleke
The Nature Conservancy
701 South Mt. Shasta Blvd.
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

Dear Mr. Zeleke:

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 # SB09016GN

File: Cattle Watering Lane Installation on Nelson Ranch
WDID No. 1A12177WNSI

On, September 14, 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 Cattle Watering Lane Installation on Nelson Ranch (Project). The Project is located on river mile 30 of the Shasta River, 30 miles upstream of the confluence of the Shasta River in the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit Sub Area 105.50, Shasta Valley Hydrologic Unit 105, in Siskiyou County, California. Coordinates of the project are latitude 41.613527° N, and longitude 122.476407° 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 install a watering lane on Nelson Ranch. Cattle historically had unfettered access to the riparian zone and Shasta River on this reach. A riparian exclusion fence was constructed to reduce cattle's impact on the riparian area, the stream bank and in-stream portions of the Shasta River. As a working ranch, cattle need an access lane through the exclusion fence. The Project will improve

juvenile over-summering habitat for salmonids by restricting cattle access to a single point. The watering lane will taper from approximately 30 ft. at the fence line to 20 ft. at the river bank. The lane will extend out approximately 10 ft. into the water. A ramp of washed 2" to 4" angular stone will be placed from the flood line to the bank/river interface. This will minimize bank erosion and downstream siltation and discourage cattle from loitering in the water and reduce their waste inputs. Standardized photo points will be used to monitor to watering lane. Project shall be constructed as described within application materials. Project is expected to begin to be implemented during the dry season of 2012.

Receiving Water:	Shasta River Shasta Valley Area 105.50, Klamath River Hydrologic Unit 105.00 Hydrologic Sub Area is undefined
Filled or Excavated Area:	Area Temporarily Impacted: << 0.1 acres of creek bed/bank
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Temporarily Impacted: Approximately 40 linear feet of creek bed/bank
Latitude/Longitude:	41.613527° N, 122.476407° 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 Andrew Baker at (707) 576-2690 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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