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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 11, 2012

Mr. Dave Cook  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Mr. Cook:

**Subject:** Amendment to the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) Order for the Russian River Estuary Breaching Activities Project, Sonoma County, California

**File:** Sonoma County Water Agency – Russian River Estuary Breaching Project  
WDID No. 1B04001WNSO

On November 28, 2012, the Sonoma County Water Agency submitted a Request for an Amendment to the existing Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Order), for the Sonoma County Water Agency - Russian River Estuary Breaching Project. The amendment request is based on a need to extend the period of the Order to continue breaching activities, as defined in the original Order, until December 31, 2013, or until a new 401 Water Quality Certification is issued for different methods of breaching and management activities, as required by the National Marine Fisheries Service Russian River Biological Opinion entitled "*Water Supply, Flood Control Operations, and Channel Maintenance conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Sonoma County Water Agency, and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District in the Russian River Watershed*", (File No. 151422SWR2000SR150), issued on September 24, 2008, whichever occurs first.

Previous amendments were issued on October 14, 2009, January 20, 2011, and January 5, 2012, to extend the expiration date of the original Order until December 31, 2010, December 31, 2011, and December 31, 2012, respectively, or until a new Order was issued (whichever occurs first).

The Regional Water Board has received an application for a new Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WDID No. 1B10122WNSO) for modified methods of breaching activities on November 29, 2010. Because the application is still incomplete, pending other permits and information, we are issuing this amendment to allow currently approved activities to continue until December 31, 2013. The Army Corps of Engineers has issued their corresponding Time Extension (File Number 2004-285610N), which will also expire on December 31, 2013.

This amendment does not include an expansion of fill to waters of the State, nor does it expand any new activities not authorized within the original Order, and only extends the effective period of the original Order to continue the approved activities. The original Order expired on October 15, 2009.

**Amended Expiration Date: All work shall be complete, by December 31, 2013.**

I hereby issue an amendment to the Sonoma County Water Agency-Russian River Estuary Breaching Project (WDID No. 1B04001WNSO) certifying that the Water Quality Certification section of the Order is still valid. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Stephen Bargsten of my staff at (707) 576-2653.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

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