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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 10, 2013

Mr. Joe Scriven  
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District  
206 Mason Street, Suite F  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mr. Scriven:

**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:** Forsythe Creek Sediment Reduction Project, Phase IV – Ascher Ranch  
WDID No. 1B13060WNME

On May 15, 2013, 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 Forsythe Creek Sediment Reduction Project, Phase IV – Ascher Ranch (Project). The Project is located on unnamed intermittent and ephemeral streams draining to Mill Creek a tributary to Forsythe Creek within the Upper Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.33, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00. The Project is located at 3250 Reeves Canyon Road, Redwood Valley, California. Coordinates of the project are latitude 39.2833416° N, and longitude 123.3074° W. 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 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

Project Purpose and Description:

The goals of the Project are to control sediment flow to streams by preventing scour and erosion at stream crossings and improving road drainage features. To achieve these goals, the project will remove perched culverts and replace with culverts set as close to natural

grade as feasible and install rock armored culvert inlets and outlets. Additionally, the project will install rock armored fill crossings at untreated crossing sites. Road drainage improvements will include road outsloping, installing rolling dips and outer berm removal. These sediment control measures are based upon stream crossing designs for culverts able to pass 100 year storm events as well as prevent scour and erosion at stream crossings. Project totals of permanently impacted area approximate 0.005 acres and 210 linear feet. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials. The Project is expected to be implemented during the dry seasons of 2013 and 2014.

Receiving Water: Unnamed intermittent and ephemeral streams draining to Mill Creek a tributary to Forsythe Creek, Upper Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.33, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00

Filled Area Permanently Impacted: 0.005 acres of creek bed/bank

Total Linear Impacts: Length Permanently Impacted: Approximately 210 linear feet of creek bed/bank

Fill Volume: Net fill of 60 cubic yards of cobble / boulder

Latitude/Longitude: 39.2833416° N, 123.3074° W

Regional Water 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 or Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

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cc: Ascher Ranch – Tom Piper, 3250 Reeves Canyon Road, Redwood Valley, CA 95470