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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 26, 2014

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In the Matter of

**Water Quality Certification**

for

**City of Yreka - Oberlin Trail Site Development**  
**WDID No. 1A13115WNSI**

APPLICANT: City of Yreka  
RECEIVING WATER: Yreka Creek, wetlands  
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Klamath River Hydrologic Unit, Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area  
No. 105.50  
COUNTY: Siskiyou  
FILE NAME: City of Yreka – Oberlin Trail Site Development

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BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On August 14, 2013, the City of Yreka (Applicant) filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) for activities associated with the City of Yreka – Oberlin Trail Site Development (Project). The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on December 5, 2013, and posted information describing the Project on the Regional Water Board's website. We did not receive any public comments on the Project. The north end of the project site is located at approximately latitude 41.721°N, and longitude 122.638°W and the south end of the project site is at approximately latitude 41.716°N, and longitude 122.636°W. The Project will result in permanent impacts to approximately 0.18 acres of wetlands, 10 linear feet of streambed, of waters of the US and 0.25 acres of riparian habitat. The project will also cause temporary impacts to

- approximately 60 linear feet of streambed, of waters of the US, associated with Yreka Creek, a linear water course within the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit No. 105.50.
2. The primary purpose of the Project is to restore the floodplain and install recreational improvements throughout the 16 acre site including: surfaced trails, bridges and seasonal crossings, picnic tables and a parking lot for access. The project will widen and restore riparian and aquatic habitat within the Yreka creek floodplain. The Project includes surfacing approximately 2,240 linear feet of existing trail, construction of approximately 1,725 linear feet of new trail, installation of approximately 125 linear feet of free span bridge and construction of approximately 6,000 square feet of asphalt parking lot and create an approximately 600-foot vegetated bioswale to capture, treat, and infiltrate storm water.
  3. The Project is planned for summer-fall 2014. Work is planned to last approximately 120 days.
  4. The Project includes mitigation for the impacts to wetlands and stream bank including restoration of approximately 1.5 acres of floodplain through site re-contouring flood constrictions, lowering ground elevations to approximately 1-2 feet above Ordinary High Water and installing in-stream rock vanes for grade control and salmonid habitat pools. Additionally, a revegetation plan submitted by the applicant includes planting approximately 600 locally propagated native riparian plants, controlling non-native plants, revegetating disturbed areas with native hydroseeding and mulch, as well as maintenance and monitoring of the planting to ensure success criteria are met. The site is expected to be self-sustaining and will be managed and maintained long-term by the City of Yreka. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.
  5. The Project will cause an increase of impervious surface by approximately 2.04 acres. Project designs include installation of approximately 600 feet of bioswales sized to capture and treat the additional storm water runoff at the site.
  6. The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. Additionally, the applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement (No. 1600-2013-0242-R1).
  7. On January 17, 2013, The City of Yreka, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2012122023), pursuant to CEQA guidelines. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document.

8. The Klamath River Hydrologic Unit, Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area No. 105.50, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for temperature and low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) have been established in by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, because the State of California determined that the water quality standards for water courses within the Shasta River Hydrologic Unit are exceeded due to excessive temperatures and low DO. The loss of riparian vegetation is identified as a source contributing to the temperature impairment. Proposed activities include implementation of BMPs for sediment and erosion control, and implementation of wetland and riparian mitigation measures as described above.
9. Pursuant to Regional Water Board Resolution R1-2004-0087, Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Policy Statement for Sediment-Impaired Receiving Waters within the North Coast Region (Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy), the Executive Officer is directed to “rely on the use of all available authorities, including existing regulatory standards, and permitting and enforcement tools to more effectively and efficaciously pursue compliance with sediment-related standards by all dischargers of sediment waste.”
10. The federal antidegradation policy requires that state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California’s antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Regional Water Board’s Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the State and federal antidegradation policies. This Order is consistent with applicable federal and State antidegradation policies, as it does not authorize the discharge of increased concentrations of pollutants or increased volumes of treated wastewater.
11. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification," which requires compliance with all conditions of this water quality certification. (Weblink attached below)

Receiving Water: Yreka Creek, wetlands  
Klamath River Hydrologic Unit, Shasta Valley  
Hydrologic Area No. 105.50

Filled or Excavated Area: Permanent impact to waters of the U.S.:  
0.18 acres wetlands

	Temporary impact to waters of the U.S.: None Permanent impact to Riparian Habitat: 0.25 acres
Channel and Shoreline:	Permanent impact to waters of the U.S.: 10 linear feet streams Temporary impact to waters of the U.S.: 60 linear feet streams
Fill Volume:	289 cubic yards
Latitude/Longitude:	North end of the project site latitude 41.721°N / longitude 122.638°W South end of the project site latitude 41.716°N / longitude 122.636°W
Expiration:	March 26, 2019

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the City of Yreka – Oberlin Trail Site Development Project (WDID No. 1A13115WNSI), as described in the application, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, provided that the Applicant complies with the following terms and conditions:

All conditions of this order apply to the Applicant (and all their employees) and all contractors (and their employees), sub-contractors (and their employees), and any other entity or agency that performs activities or work on the Project as related to this Water Quality Certification.

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review; including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3867.
2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3855, subdivision (b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

3. The validity this certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3833, and owed by the Applicant.
4. The Project will be self-mitigating as it will include restoration of approximately 1.5 acres of floodplain through site re-contouring flood constrictions, lowering ground elevations to approximately 1-2 feet above Ordinary High Water and installing in-stream rock vanes for grade control and salmonid habitat pools. The Project will improve floodplain function creating and enhancing riparian and aquatic habitat. Additionally, a revegetation plan submitted by the applicant includes planting approximately 600 locally propagated native riparian plants, controlling non-native plants, revegetating disturbed areas with native hydroseeding and mulch, as well as maintenance and monitoring of the planting to ensure success criteria are met.

The revegetation and restoration shall be performed in accordance with *The Revegetation Plan*, prepared by the City of Yreka, submitted on August 14, 2013, and any subsequent revisions reviewed and approved by the Regional Water Board. Monitoring reports shall be submitted annually to the Regional Water Board by December 31<sup>st</sup> following completion of the project, showing progress toward and attainment of success criteria outlined in *The Revegetation Plan*.

5. Any water pumped from the work area shall not be discharged back to the creek; it shall be pumped to a tank or other conveyance and disposed of at a legal point of disposal.
6. Applicant shall prioritize the use of wildlife-friendly 100% biodegradable erosion control products/BMPs whenever feasible. For purposes of this Order, photodegradable synthetic products are not considered biodegradable. Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products that contain synthetic (e.g., plastic or nylon) netting or materials for permanent erosion control (i.e., erosion control materials to be left in place for two years or after the completion date of the Project). If the Applicant finds that erosion control netting or products have entrapped or harmed wildlife, the Applicant shall remove the netting or product and replace it with wildlife-friendly biodegradable products. Applicant shall remove any remaining synthetic netting or materials remaining at the end of two years, or sooner.
7. BMPs shall be implemented as proposed in the application materials. BMPs for erosion, sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place at commencement of, during and after any ground clearing activities or any other Project activities that could result in erosion or sediment discharges to surface water. Severe and unseasonal rain events are becoming more frequent due to the effects of climate change. Therefore, BMPs shall be immediately available for deployment at all times to prevent discharges to waters of the state.

8. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this Order, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State. When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area.
9. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the Project site to document compliance with this certification.
10. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, lakes, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated Project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented including stopping work. The Regional Water Board shall be notified promptly and in no case more than 24 hours after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
11. Prior to implementing any change to the Project that may have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Order, the Applicant shall obtain the written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this Order, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement action(s).
12. All Project work shall be conducted as described in this Order and in the application submitted by the Applicant, and shall comply with all applicable water quality standards as detailed in the Basin Plan. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this Order, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement actions.
13. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Order and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ to any contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility company(ies) conducting work on the Project, and shall require that copies remain in their possession at the work site. The Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all work conducted by its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility companies is performed in accordance with the information provided by the Applicant to the Regional Water Board.
14. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the Project.
15. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or threatened discharge to any waters of the State

including dry portions of the shoreline. At no time shall the Applicant or its contractors allow use of any vehicle or equipment, which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.

16. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted and approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
17. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable state or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Order. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the State Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the State Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Order, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order as appropriate to ensure compliance.
18. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the Applicant, the Applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this Order by letter and shall forward a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the above address.

To discharge dredged or fill material under this Order, the successor-in-interest must send to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer a written request for transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, and the address and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for contact with the Regional Water Board.

The request must also describe any changes to the Project proposed by the successor-in-interest or confirm that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the Project as described in this Order. Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited to and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the Applicant's Project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

19. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on March 26, 2019. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.

*Original signed by*

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Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

140326\_YrekaOberlinTrail\_401

Attachment: Yreka Creek Greenway, Oberlin Trail Project

Weblink: State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017 -DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification can be found at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf)

Original to: Steven D. Neill P.E., Director of Public Works, City of Yreka, 701 Fourth St., Yreka, CA 96097

Copy to: Jeanette Hook, City of Yreka 701 Fourth St., Yreka, CA 96097