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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 15, 2015

Ms. Talitha Hodgson  
California Department of Transportation  
1656 Union St.  
Eureka, CA 95503

Dear Ms. Hodgson:

**Subject:** Notice of Applicability (NOA) for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction (Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ) for the State Route 101 South Humboldt Storm Repair Project

**File:** South Humboldt Storm Repair EA No. 01-0B400; ECM PIN CW-810556; W DID No. 1B14114RHUM

On November 6, 2014, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted a *Report of Waste Discharge General Information Form for Waste Discharge Requirements or NPDES Permit (ROWD)* with the intent of receiving a waiver of waste discharge requirements for the proposed State Route 101 South Humboldt Storm Repair Project (Project). The Project involves installing 33 horizontal underground drains above the South Fork Eel River at post-mile 14.97.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff have reviewed the ROWD and have determined that the State Water Resources Control Board's *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction* (Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ, hereinafter "General WDRs") is the appropriate permitting mechanism for the Project, and that the submitted ROWD will serve as a Notice of Intent for coverage under the General WDRs. Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as described in the ROWD and supplemental application materials, meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General WDRs. The Project plans provided in the ROWD are included as an attachment to this NOA ("12/9/14 NOI Project Plans").

The proposed Project activities involve installation of 33 horizontal drains below the highway surface along the southbound State Route 101 embankment. A twelve-inch manifold pipe would be installed to convey the drainage to an existing grouted rock apron above the Eel River ordinary high water mark. Project construction would require a temporary access road between the river and the embankment. There are approximately

0.12-acres of State jurisdictional wetlands within the access road footprint. To prevent permanent impacts to the wetlands, Caltrans shall operate a track-mounted drill rig and any other heavy equipment using temporary wetland protection mats within the access road footprint. Caltrans shall also monitor the manifold outlet annually for three to five consecutive years to ensure the introduced flows are not resulting in excessive erosion in the vicinity of the outlet.

Receiving Water: Unnamed wetlands below top of bank of the South Fork Eel River in the Weott Hydrologic Sub Area No. 111.31.

Permanent Area Impacted: None

Temporary Area Impacted: 0.12 acres

Fill Volume: None

Latitude/Longitude: 40.147361, -123.801333

Compensatory Mitigation: None

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General WDR and you should familiarize yourself with its provisions. Please call Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by David Leland for*

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Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

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Weblink: State Water Resources Control Water Quality Order 2004-0004-DWQ for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction can be found at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf)

Attachment: 12/9/14 NOI Project Plans

cc: Bill Orme, State Water Resources Control Board