June 10, 2015

In the Matter of
Water Quality Certification

For

Rohnert Park Eastside Trunk Sewer
Phase 3/Snyder Lane Widening Project
WDID 1B14104WNSO

APPLICANT:	Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park
RECEIVING WATER:	Copeland Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT:	Russian River (114.21)
COUNTY:	Sonoma
FILE:	Rohnert Park Eastside Trunk Sewer Phase 3/Snyder Lane Widening Project; WDID 1B14104WNSO; ECM PIN CW-810129

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On October 24, 2014, Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park (applicant) filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) for activities associated with the Rohnert Park Eastside Trunk Sewer Phase 3/Snyder Lane Widening Project (project). The project is located along Snyder Lane between East Cotati Avenue and Parkway Drive in Rohnert Park, at latitude 38.342417°N and longitude 122.6855°W.

2. The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858 on June 3, 2015, and posted information describing the project on the Regional Water Board's website. The Project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to accommodate a compressed timeline to avoid disrupting the neighboring high school and to improve public safety. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public

notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the public safety issues associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period.

3. The purpose of the project is to increase the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, reduce and resolve the congestion on a major corridor, and to increase the capacity of the trunk sewer system to provide for surcharge relief resulting in increased reliability as well as providing for planned development. The project consists of widening and reconstructing Snyder Lane and the entrance to Rancho Cotati High School; installing storm drain, sewer, water and recycled water pipes and infrastructure; extending the existing box culverts comprising the Snyder Lane crossing at Copeland Creek to accommodate the roadway widening; relocating a PG&E high pressure gas main and City sanitary sewer under Copeland Creek; undergrounding various overhead utilities; and roadway and parking lot overlay at the Spreckels Performing Arts Center.

4. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.14 acres (52 linear feet). Temporary impacts would be approximately 0.06 acres (23 linear feet).

5. The project is expected to commence in June of 2015 and to last approximately 18 months with in-stream work occurring only in the dry season.

6. The area of Copeland Creek being permanently impacted by the project is used as a Sonoma County Water Agency sediment catchment facility. Compensatory mitigation will, therefore, occur downstream on Copeland Creek between Commerce Avenue and Snyder Lane. Approximately 0.3 acre will be planted with a combination of instream herbaceous plantings around outfalls and on stream banks, as well as native shrubs and upper bank trees in gaps along the south bank of Copeland Creek. The project will also employ best management practices (BMPs) to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

7. The applicant has received Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (File Number 2006-302970N). The applicant has also applied for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

8. On April 28, 2006, the City of Rohnert Park approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2006042169) for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document, BMPs, and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

9. The Russian River is identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d). At present, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have not been established for this water body. If TMDLs are established and implementation plans are adopted for this watershed prior to the expiration date of the requested certification, the Regional Water Board may revise the provisions of that certification to address actions identified in such action plans. Bank erosion is identified as a source contributing to the sediment impairment. Removal of riparian vegetation is identified as a source contributing to temperature impairment. Activities that will be authorized by this Order are designed to reduce removal of riparian vegetation and reduce sediment discharges from bank erosion. Accordingly, this Order is consistent with, and implements, BMPs that would attenuate sediment and temperature adverse impacts.

10. 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."

11. 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 68-16, which incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific finding. 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, and does not otherwise authorize degradation of the waters affected by this project.

12. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Board Order 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.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Receiving Water:	Copeland Creek, tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, which is tributary to the Russian River (114.21)
Filled or Excavated Area:	0.14 acres Permanent 0.06 acres Temporary
Total Linear Impacts:	52 linear feet Permanent 23 linear feet Temporary
Dredge Volume:	None
Latitude/Longitude:	38.342417°N/122.6855°W

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Rohnert Park Eastside Trunk Sewer Phase 3/Snyder Lane Widening Project (WDID 1B14104WNSO), 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. The applicant shall comply with the Low Impact Development Technical Memo submitted on April 15, 2015, and approved by Regional Water Board staff on May 1, 2015.

2. The applicant shall comply with the Habitat Mitigation Plan submitted on May 19, 2015. Compensatory mitigation will occur downstream on Copeland Creek between Commerce Avenue and Snyder Lane. Approximately 0.3 acre will be planted with a combination of instream herbaceous plantings around outfalls and on stream banks, as well as native shrubs and upper bank trees in gaps along the south bank of Copeland Creek. The project will also employ best management practices (BMPs) to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

3. The mitigation measures detailed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH 2006042169) are hereby incorporated by reference and are conditions of approval of this certification. Notwithstanding any more specific conditions in this certification, the

applicant shall comply with all mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration that are within the Regional Water Board's jurisdiction.

4. Per the Habitat Mitigation Plan, plantings shall be monitored annually for 5 years after installation to evaluate success criteria. All woody plantings shall have a minimum survival of 85% after 5 years. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board by January 31 of each year. If replanting is required to meet success criteria, 5 years of monitoring may be required from the date of the replanting.

5. An annual project progress report shall be submitted describing status of BMP implementation and compliance with all requirements of this certification prior to December 31, of each year following the issuance of this certification (even if no work has commenced), until the project has reached completion. The report must include the following information:
    a. The name and WDID number of the project;
    b. The names, qualifications, and affiliations of the persons contributing to the report;
    c. The status, progress, and anticipated schedule for completion of project construction activities including the installation and operational status of best management practices for erosion and storm water quality treatment and the implementation and success of required mitigation;
    d. A description of project construction delays encountered or anticipated that may affect the schedule for construction completion;
    e. A description of each incident of noncompliance during the annual monitoring period and its cause, the period of the noncompliance including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. The validity of 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.

9. Regional Water Board staff shall be notified in writing at least five working days prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities, with details regarding the construction schedule, in order to allow staff to be present onsite during construction, and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the project.

10. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bar, slash, sawdust, 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.

11. All activities and best management practices (BMPs) shall be implemented according to the submitted application and the conditions in this certification. 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.

12. In accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, the applicant is liable and responsible for the proper disposal for project-generated waste. When handling, transporting, and disposing of project-generated waste, the applicant and their contractors shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. When disposing of project-generated waste offsite, the applicant and its contractors shall:

    a. Make appropriate arrangements to dispose of the material, including, but not limited to, property owner agreements, permits, licenses, and environmental clearances;

    b. Obtain satisfactory evidence that the work in 12.a has been completed; and

    c. Obtain a dated, signed manifest from the disposal site owner, or authorized representative, that identifies the type and quantity of disposed waste.

13. Only wildlife-friendly, 100 percent biodegradable erosion and sediment control products that will not entrap or harm wildlife shall be used. Erosion and sediment control products shall not contain synthetic (e.g., plastic or nylon) netting. Photodegradable synthetic products are not considered biodegradable. The applicant shall request approval from the Regional Water Board if an exception from this requirement is needed for a specific location.

14. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the project.

15. 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.

16. 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 that leaks any substance that may impact water quality.

17. 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 actions.

18. 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.

19. The applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the project site to document compliance with this certification.

20. 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.

21. The applicant shall provide a copy of this Order and State Water Board Order 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.

22. 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 email a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the following email address: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

    To discharge dredged or fill material under this Order, the successor-in-interest must email the Regional Water Board Executive Officer at NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov a 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).

23. 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).

24. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on June 10, 2020. 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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or Kaete King at (707) 576-2848.

Original Signed By

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Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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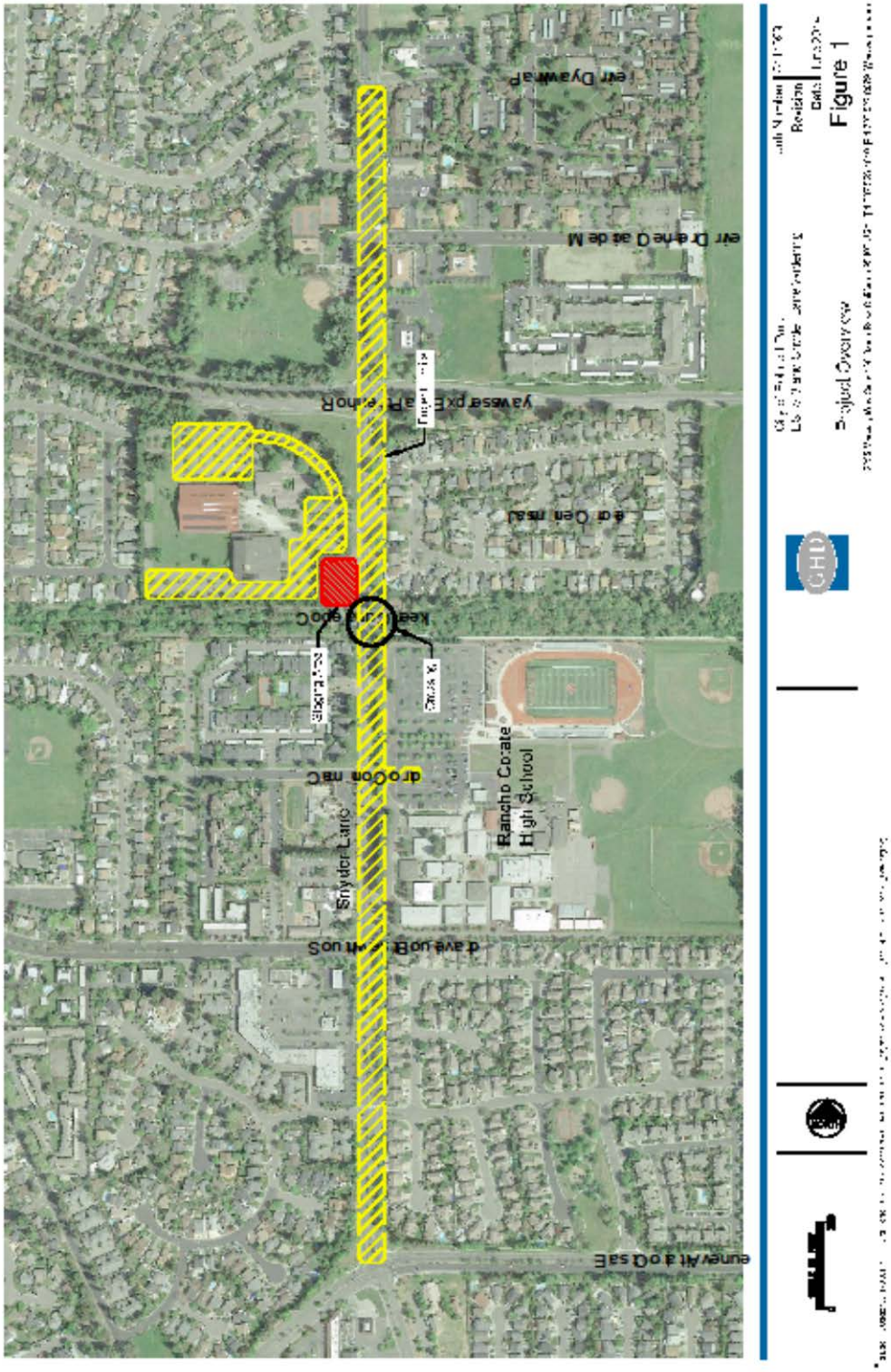
Snyder Lane
Rancho Cotate High School
Figure 1