
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 21, 2015

California State Parks
Attn: Ms. Carol Wilson
3431 Fort Avenue
Eureka, CA 95503

Dear Ms. Wilson:

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 SB12006GN

Files: C DPR Hamilton Creek Culvert Removal Project
WDID No. 1A15046WNDN, ECM PIN CW-815140

On July 22, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a NOI¹ for the Hamilton Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project (Project) from California State Parks.

The Project is located in Del Norte County on Hamilton Creek within the Mill Creek Hydrologic Sub Area of the Lower Smith River Hydrologic Area (Basin Plan Hydrologic Sub Area No. 103.13). The approximate latitude of the Project location is 41.729, and the approximate longitude is -124.10957². Hamilton Creek is a tributary to the West Branch of Mill Creek and within Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is categorically exempt from CEQA review (section 15301 – *Existing Facilities*) and meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Water Quality Certification

¹ *Notice of Intent to Comply with the Terms of General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects*

² WGS84 datum

Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (hereinafter "General 401 Order" File No. SB12006GN).

Project Purpose and Description

The primary purpose of the Project is to remove a 72-inch diameter, 40-foot long corrugated metal culvert from Hamilton Creek to restore fish passage to an approximately one kilometer reach of Hamilton Creek that provides high-value coho salmon spawning and rearing habitat. The culvert currently lies beneath a dirt road that will be permanently removed at the Project location. Once the culvert is removed, the channel will be shaped to match the upstream and downstream contours. A cantilevered modular bridge is being considered to provide connectivity across the channel on an as-needed basis.

Hamilton Creek will be diverted through the Project area using upstream and downstream cofferdams placed approximately 30 feet upstream and downstream of the existing culvert. Upstream water would be pumped downstream through the diversion system. An excavator will be used to remove soil and riprap from a cross sectional area approximately 90 feet wide at the road elevation and 15 feet wide at the stream bottom, over an approximate 60-foot length. Excavation is expected to be completed within one day.

Approximately 120 linear feet of Hamilton Creek would be temporarily impacted as a result of creek diversion, culvert removal, and bank and channel restoration activities. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within the NOI and supplemental materials. Project implementation is expected to last four days or less between September 15, 2015, and October 30, 2015.

Receiving Water: Hamilton Creek, tributary to Mill Creek and Smith River

Total Linear Impacts: Length Permanently Impacted: None
Length Temporarily Impacted: 120 linear feet

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is categorically exempt from CEQA review (section 15301 – *Existing Facilities*) and may proceed under the General 401 Order. Coverage under this General 401 Order requires that Monitoring Reports be submitted to document progress towards the achievement of Project performance standards and goals. California State Parks shall submit monitoring reports annually for three years to track success of fish passage, habitat improvement, and native plant revegetation. Per the requirements of the General 401 Order, monitoring reports shall include: a summary of findings; identification and discussion of problems with achieving performance standards; proposed corrective measures; and monitoring data. Annual monitoring reports shall be due by December 31, of each reporting year, starting in 2016. Annual monitoring reports shall include photo point plots, CRAM data, and fisheries survey.

Per the requirements of the General 401 Order, a Notice of Completion shall be submitted by California State Parks to the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Board no later than 30 days after the Project has been completed. The Notice of Completion shall include a map of the Project location and post-project photographs. Post-project photographs shall include descriptive titles, dates and locations the photographs were taken and photographic orientation. The Notice of Completion shall demonstrate that the Project has been carried out in accordance with the Project description as provided in the NOI.

Please include the Project name, WDID number and ECM PIN with all future inquiries and document submittals. Document submittals shall be made electronically to:
NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please call Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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Weblink: The State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN can be found here:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrpcert032713.pdf