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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 16, 2015

Ms. Betsy Stapleton  
Scott River Watershed Council  
PO Box 355  
Etna, CA 96027

Dear Ms. Stapleton:

**Subject:** Notice of Applicability (NOA) Amendment for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN

**File:** Scott River Juvenile Coho Habitat Enhancement through Beaver Dams  
WDID No. 1A14055WNSI, ECM PIN No. CW-806806

On June 9, 2014, 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 Scott River Juvenile Coho Habitat Enhancement through Beaver Dams (Project). The Project was proposed to be located at five locations on the Scott River, French Creek, and Sugar Creek in the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit 105.42, Scott River Hydrologic Sub-Area. The Project sites are located within the Scott River Valley, Siskiyou County, California. Approximate coordinates of the project sites are: Site 1 (Menne Ranch) latitude 41.630481° N, and longitude 122.918066° W; Site 2 (Whipple Ranch) latitude 41.475118° N, and longitude 122.849220° W; Site 3 (Spencer property) latitude 41.415746° N, and longitude 122.848108° W; Site 4 (Stapleton property) latitude 41.402523° N, and longitude 122.467483° W; Site 5 (Kalpine property) latitude 41.342074° N, and longitude 122.823892° W. Each project site contains one or more installations. Regional Water Board staff 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.

Since enrollment for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN on June 20, 2014, the applicant submitted a revised project description on October 8, 2015, and requested amendment to the enrollment. The revised project description highlights structures installed in 2014 and revised information about activities proposed for 2015. No structures were installed or are proposed at original Sites 1 and 4. Regional Water Board staff determined that the Project, as described in the revised NOI project description, 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.

Activities approved for enrollment in this amended NOA include the following:

1) installation of two beaver dam analog structures on Miners Creek at approximately latitude 41.3874° N, and longitude 122.871071° W, and latitude 41.386553° N, and longitude 122.871004° W; 2) removal of one of the 2014 installations located at approximately latitude 41.413214° N, and longitude 122.845144° W; 3) repair of a 2014 installation located at approximately latitude 41.471208° N, and longitude 122.851014° W; and, 4) repair a head-cut near a 2014 installation located at approximately latitude 41.413214° N, and longitude 122.845144° W. Additionally the applicant requests to work outside of the originally proposed work period of July and August, and conduct work within wetted channels in October and possibly early November 2015.

Project Purpose and Description:

The primary purpose of the Project is to use existing beaver dams and beaver dam analogues to create deep, slow-water pools to enhance summer rearing and overwintering habitat for juvenile coho salmon in the Scott River and its tributaries. The Project will create such habitat by reinforcing existing beaver dams and constructing beaver dam analogues. The Project involves installation of postlines, long willow branches or similar material and cobbles along the postline to create structure that is semi-permeable to flow and allows fish passage. The temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. associated with the Project total approximately 1.25 acres and 400 linear feet. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within the application materials. Project implementation is expected to be completed by December 2015.

Revised activities for 2015 include: heavy machinery access through active channels; working beyond October 15<sup>th</sup>; channel excavation and use of excavated cobble material or imported, clean, native river run material; collection of local, native willow material for planting along the mainstem Scott River to repair a head-cut near a 2014 installation; construction of “step down” structures to ensure fish passage is maintained at installations; and removal of a 2014 installation (native substrate and woody debris will be retained).

Revised impact area totals:

Receiving Water:	Scott River, Sugar Creek, French Creek, Miners Creek Klamath River Hydrologic Unit 105.42, Scott River Hydrologic Sub-Area
Filled / Excavated Area:	Permanent Area Impacted: None Temporary Area Impacted: 1.25 acres river bed
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Permanently Impacted: None Length Temporarily Impacted: 400 linear feet river bed
Latitude/Longitude:	Site 2: 41.475118° N / 122.849220° W, Site 3: 41.415746° N / 122.848108° W, Site 5: 41.342074° N / 122.823892° W, Miners Creek: approximately 41.3874° N / 122.871071° W, 41.386553° N / 122.871004° W, Head-cut repair: 41.413214° N / 122.845144° W

Special conditions for working within surface waters and during wet weather should include but not be limited to:

1. All equipment entering active channels shall be cleaned properly off site prior to entering the river channel to prevent petroleum, other products, or non-native material from entering the channel and creating a discharge.
2. If turbidity is noticeable in surface waters during in-stream / river activities, remedial actions shall be implemented to reduce and maintain turbidity at or below the threshold not to exceed 20% above background levels. Monitoring turbidity levels upstream and at the point of compliance may be necessary if turbidity is elevated by project activities to determine compliance with Water Quality Objectives. Installation of appropriate turbidity controls or BMPs may be necessary to maintain turbidity below thresholds.
3. Activities associated with access to and installation of the approved structures using machinery shall not permanently alter channel bed or bank, nor remove riparian vegetation. Proposed BMPs shall be in place to avoid and minimize impacts to channels and water quality while utilizing mechanized equipment.
4. When the 7-day NOAA National Weather Service forecast of rain for project site areas at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov> includes a minimum of 5 consecutive days with any chance of precipitation, 3 consecutive days with a 30% or greater chance of precipitation, or 2 consecutive days of 50% or greater chance of precipitation, all work underway shall be finished, erosion control measures applied, and no new work shall be conducted prior to the rain event.

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. Regional Water Board staff have reviewed and approved the *Juvenile Habitat Enhancement through Beaver Dams Monitoring Plan* submitted on June 9, 2014. As per the monitoring plan, reports will be submitted annually beginning in December 2015 through December 2019. Regional Water Board staff request that the December 2015 report include photo documentation, coordinates and descriptions of all activities conducted in 2014 and 2015. The final monitoring report can act as a Notice of Completion (NOC) to be submitted by the applicant no later than 30 days after the Project has been completed. A complete NOC includes as a minimum: photographs with a descriptive title, the date the photograph was taken, the name of the photographic site, the WDID number and ECM PIN number indicated above, and success criteria for the Project. The NOC shall demonstrate that the Project has been carried out in accordance with the project description as provided in the applicant's NOI. Please, include the project name, WDID number, and ECM PIN number with all future inquiries and document submittals. Document submittals shall be made electronically to: [NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov).

All conditions in the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN apply to the activities enrolled with this NOA.

Please call Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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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/shrp\\_cert.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrp_cert.pdf)

cc: Ms. Betsy Stapleton, Scott River Watershed Council, PO Box 355 Etna, CA 96027

Ec: Ms. Betsey Stapleton and Charna Gilmore, Scott River Watershed Council,  
[5104stapleton@gmail.com](mailto:5104stapleton@gmail.com) , [charnnagilmore@gmail.com](mailto:charnnagilmore@gmail.com)

Mr. Michael Lenox, Regional Water Board, [Michael.Lennox@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Lennox@Waterboards.ca.gov)

Ms. Donna Cobb, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, [Donna.Cobb@cdfw.ca.gov](mailto:Donna.Cobb@cdfw.ca.gov)