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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 27, 2016

Ms. Kyla Burton  
Siskiyou County Public Works  
P.O. Box 1127  
Yreka, CA 96097  
[Kburton@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:Kburton@co.siskiyou.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Burton:

**Subject:** Notice of Applicability (NOA) for coverage under the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General 401 Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted Under the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (Order No. R1-2013-0004)

**File:** Dennis Road Bridge Project  
WDID No.: 1A15028WNSI, ECM No.: CW-818234

### Introduction

On September 21, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received the application package requesting coverage under the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General 401 Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted Under the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program* (5C Waiver and General Certification) for the Dennis Road Bridge Project (Project). The Regional Water Board also received copies of the Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 permit (404 permit) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the signed Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, on October 22, 2015, and December 8, 2015, respectively. The Project is located at the Dennis Road Bridge which spans Willow Creek, in Siskiyou County, California. Coordinates of the Project site are latitude 41.890205 and longitude -122.481742.

### Background

On October 23, 2014, the Regional Water Board received Siskiyou County's Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage of, county road maintenance and activities under the 5C Waiver and General Certification, Order No. R1-2013-0004. Project proponents that have adopted the Five Counties Salmon Conservation Program (5C Program) are required, in part, to implement the best management practices (BMPs) contained within the Five Counties Roads Manual (5C Roads Manual). Projects covered under the 5C Waiver are eligible for coverage under the General 401 Water Quality

Certification contained within the 5C Waiver without undergoing a project CEQA analysis. In order to receive coverage, a Project must meet the following requirements – Project activities will not 1) take place within the channels and/or banks of watercourses containing fish; 2) result in significant unavoidable environmental impacts including permanent impacts to wetlands, and/or violation of water quality standards; 3) result in the direct or indirect take of any listed species; or 4) expose people and/or structures to potential adverse effects from flooding, landslides, or soil erosion. Additionally, project proponents may use the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification in-lieu of a General 401 Water Quality Certification application.

#### Project Purpose and Description:

The existing rock slope protection has been displaced from above and around each of the abutments of the Dennis Road Bridge. It appears that the loss of the rock slope protection is the result of poor initial emplacement with little to no keying in of the lower tier of rock. Rip-rap has been transported down the creek and erosion around the abutments is beginning to occur.

The Project purpose is to replace the rip-rap that was originally at this location. Rip-rap that can be salvaged from Willow Creek without causing permanent impacts will be re-used. Two pathways, one on each side, will be constructed from the existing road down the bank to the edge of the stream channel to allow an excavator to reach in and recover rip rap. An additional 30 cubic yards of ¼ ton rip-rap will be placed within the original footprint of the rock slope protection for each of the abutments. The rock slope protection will be keyed in to ensure a stable emplacement. As per the signed SAA, biodegradable erosion control fabric will be used when necessary. Willow stakes will be planted between the rip-rap as it is being placed, with the intention of enhancing riparian vegetation and reducing increases in temperatures in the stream. All work will be done when the stream is dry. Stationary equipment such as motors, pumps, generators, and welders that contain deleterious materials, located within or adjacent to a stream shall be positioned over drip pans. All activities performed in or near a stream will have absorbent materials designated for spill containment and cleanup activities onsite for use in an accidental spill. Any exposed soils, including the two access pathways, resulting from the Project will be treated with straw and/or grass seed to prevent erosion. No trees will be removed during Project implementation.

#### Impacts

No new permanent impacts are anticipated as a result of this Project. Existing permanent impacts from the original bank stabilization/protection total 90 linear feet of watercourse channel and 1,800 square feet of embankment. All rip-rap will be placed within the original footprint of the bank stabilization/protection for each of the abutments. New temporary impacts include the loss of grass and underbrush from the construction of two pathways, approximately 16 feet wide each and approximately 25 feet long, leading down from the top of the streambank to the edge of the watercourse channel for excavators to use.

Receiving Water: Willow Creek  
Klamath River, Iron Gate Hydrologic Sub-Area, 105.36

Filled / Excavated Area: Area Permanently Impacted: No new permanent impacts  
Area Temporarily Impacted: 320 square feet (.007 acres)

Total Linear Impacts: Length Permanently Impacted: No new permanent impacts  
Length Temporarily Impacted: 16 linear feet

Fill Volume: None

Latitude/Longitude: 41.890205, -122.481742

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed Project meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the 5C Waiver and General Certification. Implementation of the BMPs contained within the 5C Roads Manual together with the requirements described in the signed SAA and 404 permits will reduce the temporary impacts to a level below significance.

The Dennis Road Bridge Project, WDID No. 1A15028WNSI, is subject to the requirements of the 5C Waiver and General Certification, Order No. R1-2013-0004. The MRP for the 5C Waiver and General Certification requires that BMP implementation and effectiveness monitoring be conducted - as per Item 10-B-1 and Item 10-B-2 of the 5C Manual - to document the achievement of performance standards and project goals. The results of this monitoring must be included in the Annual Report and submitted to the Regional Water Board no later than March 1 of each calendar year. Finally, notification of completion must be submitted to the Regional Water Board no later than 30 days after Project completion. Please include the project name and the WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals.

Please contact Maggie Robinson at (707) 576-2292, or at [Maggie.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Maggie.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

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cc: Scott Waite, [Swaite@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:Swaite@co.siskiyou.ca.us)  
Kate Blanchard, [Katherine.grossman@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Katherine.grossman@wildlife.ca.gov)  
Cameron Purchio, [Cameron.r.purchio@usace.army.mil](mailto:Cameron.r.purchio@usace.army.mil)