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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 22, 2016

Ms. Tina Lynsky  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
3630 Main Street  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Ms. Lynsky:

**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, Order No. SB12006GN

**File:** Swift Creek Trail Re-Route Project 401 Certification  
WDID No. 1A15075WNTR, ECM PIN CW-815308

On June, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) from the Shasta Trinity National Forest, to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the *General 401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects* (General 401 Certification), Order No. SB12006GN, for the Swift Creek Trail Re-Route Project (Project). The Project is located in Mumford Meadows which are adjacent to Landers Creek and Swift Creeks. Swift Creek discharges into Trinity Lake Reservoir, located on the Trinity River, at Trinity Center, in Trinity County, California. Coordinates of the Project are latitude 41.0122° N, and longitude 122.8721° W. Regional Water Board staff have 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 for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

### Project Purpose and Description:

The purpose of the project is to restore wet meadow functions by re-routing portions of the Swift Creek and Landers Lake trails in the Trinity Wilderness area of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Presently the Swift Creek and Landers Lake trails pass directly through Mumford Meadows, a series of seasonally wet meadows in the Trinity Alps wilderness. These meadows are jurisdictional waters of the State and U.S. Trail use has progressively widened portions of the trails, and/or created new pathways through wet meadow areas,

resulting in damage to nearby vegetation, erosion, soil compaction, and trail entrenchment. Roughly 2.5 miles of new trail will be constructed to redirect hikers around and away from sensitive wet meadow areas along the Swift Creek and Landers Lake trails. Trail removal and restoration work will occur on roughly 2 miles of the Swift Creek and Landers Lake trails – including those portions which pass through Mumford Meadows. Lastly, 3 miles of non-system trail will be adopted so that maintenance funds can be used to bring these existing trails up to current standards. The existing sections of trail through wet meadows have a total length of 0.51 miles and average 36 inches in width, for a total area of 0.19 acres of restoration achieved through natural recovery, and active restoration.

Trail edges will be scalped back in, meaning that the soils comprising the tops of the edges of the entrenched trail sections will be placed into the trail, utilizing handwork with shovels. The maximum area that would be impacted from scalping is 0.06 acres, assuming that soils are scalped an average of 6" back along both edges of the trail. Vegetation plugs, including root structures, approximately 6 inches wide by 8 inches long will be removed from areas of the wet meadow and planted in the newly filled-in trail to facilitate vegetation ingrowth. It is anticipated that 275 square feet of wetland vegetation will be relocated. Given the rapid regrowth observed in similar projects, it is also anticipated that the areas where the vegetation will be moved from, as well as the restored trail sections, will re-vegetate within less than a year.

There are four new watercourse crossings that are part of the new trail construction. Two of the crossings are on small seasonal streams and are proposed to be kept as natural as possible. No filling or excavating of the watercourses will occur. The trail tread will lead up to the watercourse, where users will then utilize in-stream rocks and stones to get across.

Two more crossings will occur on an upslope seep area as part of the new construction. The watercourses are each between 4–12 inches wide, depending on time of year. An area measuring approximately 150 feet long by 18 inches wide (225 sq. ft.) will have a permeable rock trail section constructed across it. The trail tread will consist of native soils being graded to 5% outslope. Directly adjacent to the two small watercourses header stones will be placed on either side of the channels parallel to the flow, creating a gap in the trail tread to allow unaffected water passage that is easily stepped over by trail users. Baseball-sized cobble will be laid down to a one foot-depth and small gravels will be crushed in along the trail tread for hiking stability for 2 - 4 feet on either side of the watercourses. Intermittently large (60#-100#) rocks will be placed and keyed into the ground on the outer edge of the trail prism in order to provide a visual border to facilitate and encourage hiker and horse traffic to stay on the trail. It is anticipated that no more than 2.6 cubic yards of clean gravels and cobbles will be used as part of these crossing.

The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials. The Project is expected to be implemented from May 2016 through September 2016, lasting approximately 150 days.

Receiving Water: Mumford Meadows (wetlands), Swift Creek  
Upper Trinity River Hydrologic Unit, 106.40

Filled / Excavated: Permanent Impact: 6 linear feet seasonal stream bank  
Temporary Impact: 275 square feet wetland

Latitude/Longitude: 38.59570° N / 122.90765° W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Certification. Please be advised that coverage under this General 401 Certification requires that monitoring reports be submitted at least annually documenting the achievement of performance standards and Project goals. As per the monitoring and reporting plan, reports will be submitted annually beginning in December 31, 2016, through 2019. Monitoring reports shall illustrate status of meadow re-vegetation. A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall 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 applicants 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)

Please call Maggie Robinson at (707) 576-2292 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 For Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN can be found here:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generallorders/shrpcert032713.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generallorders/shrpcert032713.pdf)