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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 15, 2016

Ms. Jan Smith  
Trinity County Department of Transportation  
31301 State Highway 3  
P.O. Box 2490  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
[jsmith@trinitycounty.org](mailto:jsmith@trinitycounty.org)

Dear Ms. Smith:

**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:** Morgan Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project  
WDID No. 1A161333WNTR, ECM PIN CW-822759

### Introduction

On July 22, 2016, 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 Morgan Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project (Project). The Applicant will be conducting the work under a Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit 14, Linear Transportation Projects, and has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA).

### Background

On September 26, 2013, the Regional Water Board received Trinity 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:

Morgan Hill Road is a paved rural road serving multiple properties south of the town of Hayfork in Trinity County, California. The Project purpose is to replace an existing crossing on Morgan Gulch, a tributary to Hayfork Creek. Presently, an existing 24 inch-diameter metal well casing functions as a culvert crossing under the road. During the 1980s Morgan Hill Road was widened and a 28 inch-diameter corrugated metal sleeve was attached to the end of the well casing to lengthen the culvert to 60 feet, which was the new width of the road fill. Over time water has leaked between the 24 inch-diameter well casing and the 28 inch-diameter corrugated sleeve, resulting in rusting and corrosion. Storms during the 2015-2016 winter period caused the metal sleeve to completely detach and move downstream from the well casing. Road fill material has eroded into Morgan Gulch, undercutting the road, resulting in a scour pool at the outlet of the pipe and leaving an approximately 10 foot-long section of road surface suspended in the air with no supporting material below it. The resulting slump is approximately 10 feet-long and 15 feet-deep.

The project proposes to remove the existing 24 inch-diameter well casing from the road and the 28 inch-diameter metal sleeve from the streambed. A new 48 inch-diameter, 50 foot-long High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe will be placed as close to natural stream grade as possible. At the outlet, an area measuring approximately 15 feet-long and 10 feet-wide will be armored with 2 to 3 foot-diameter rock, to fill in the scour pool and to serve as an energy dissipater to prevent future scour. The inlet side of the new road fill will be armored with 4 cubic yards of 6 inch- to 8 inch-diameter rock that will be approximately 2 feet deep. Pruning of underbrush consisting of Himalayan blackberry, poison oak, and one Vine Maple tree less than 4 inches in diameter, in an area totaling 500 square feet will be done to access the road fill and install the energy dissipater.

Construction will occur during the dry summer season when flows are lowest and precipitation is minimal. A dewatering plan has been included in the event that flows are

present within Morgan Gulch during project implementation. Project construction activities are anticipated to last approximately 5 to 7 days.

### Impacts

New permanent impacts from the installation of the energy dissipater will total 15 linear feet. New temporary impacts include the loss vegetation in an area approximately 500 square feet in order to access the road fill and to install the energy dissipater. It is anticipated that the affected vegetation will grow back within one year. Ten feet of stream channel will be daylighted due to the shorter length of the new culvert. The project will also greatly reduce erosion and sediment delivery to the watercourse due to the failed culverts.

Receiving Water:	Morgan Gulch, Hayfork Valley HSA, 106.25
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Permanently Impacted: 15 linear feet Length Temporarily Impacted: 25 linear feet
Filled / Excavated Area:	Area Permanently Impacted: 150 square feet (.011 acres) Area Temporarily Impacted: 500 square feet
Fill Volume:	17 cubic yards clean rock
Latitude/Longitude:	40.54230, -123.14858
Anticipated Work Window:	June 15 – October 15, 2016

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 project description, the attached dewatering plan, and 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 Morgan Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project, WDID No. 1A161333WNTR, 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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