
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 19, 2016

Melissa Van Scoyoc
Salmon River Restoration Council
25631 Sawyers Bar Rd.
Sawyers Bar, CA 96027

Dear Ms. Van Scoyoc:

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

File: Taylor Creek In-Stream Barrier Removal and Bridge Project
CW-827176; WDID 1A161063WNSI

This letter is to certify coverage of the Salmon River Restoration Council's *Taylor Creek In-Stream Barrier Removal and Bridge Project* (project) under the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects; Order No. SB12006GN (General 401 Order). The project includes the removal of a fish passage barrier and the installation of a single lane, flatcar bridge on Taylor Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River. The project will provide access to approximately 4.25 miles of habitat for coho salmon and steelhead.

Background

On July 28, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) from the Salmon River Restoration Council (applicant) to comply with the terms of, and obtain project coverage under, the General 401 Order for the project.

Project Inspection

On May 4, 2016, Regional Water Board staff participated in an inspection of the proposed project. Also present during the inspection were Melissa Van Scoyoc of the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC) and Don Flickinger of NOAA Fisheries.

Project Location

The project is located at 212 Taylor Creek Road, Cecilville, CA 96031, on Taylor Creek, within the Salmon River Hydrologic Unit 105.24. Coordinates of the project are 41.1717° N, 123.092° W (Figure 1).

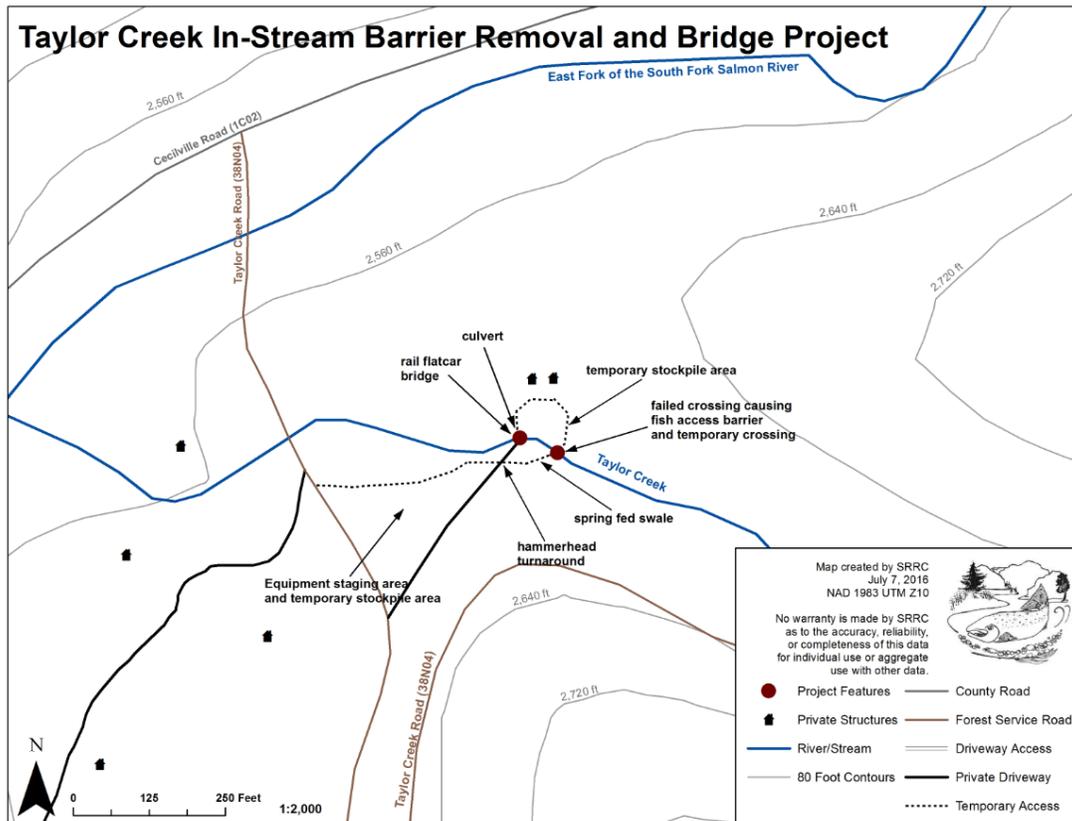


Figure 1 shows the project location and the proposed access route.

Project Description

The goals of the project are to remove a fish barrier from Taylor Creek; replace a failed crossing with a flatcar bridge; prevent harm to fish during barrier removal and construction; prevent any harmful discharges during construction; and to restore the site to natural conditions following project implementation.

The failed stream crossing, composed of culverts and concrete debris, will be removed and the stream channel will be restored to natural condition based on local reference reach geomorphology. Natural bed material will be graded and boulders will be placed to match surrounding channel conditions. Project includes using a hydraulic excavator and a dump truck.

Bridge construction will be implemented with the use of a temporary stream crossing. The temporary access across the stream and spring area will consist of imported, clean,

spawning sized gravels for temporary fill. The spring area will be dewatered with a 4 inch diameter flexible pipe. All materials used for temporary erosion control and access will be removed following completion of bridge construction and barrier removal. All instream and construction work will be completed by October 15th, following which all erosion control and revegetation work will be completed by November 1st.

If water is in the channel during construction, the channel will be dewatered following the submitted dewatering plan approved by the Regional Water Board. Permanent erosion controls will be placed following construction and barrier removal. The temporarily disturbed areas of the site are expected to revegetate naturally.

Project Size

The total area of ground disturbance within jurisdictional waters associated with the project is estimated to be 0.031 acres and 36 linear feet. The proposed project size does not exceed what is allowed for coverage under the General 401 Order and associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption (15333).

Project Time Frame

Proposed project start date: September 19, 2016

Expected date of completion: October 15, 2017

Seasonal work window: May 15 – October 15

Note: This certification authorizes project related activities and discharges for up to five years. If the applicant is unable to complete the project in 2016, they shall notify the Regional Water Board in writing of the proposed implementation time frame prior to subsequent seasonal work windows.

Monitoring Plan

Fish surveys will occur once per week for two weeks prior to implementation in order to determine if a qualified biologist will need to conduct fish exclusion as part of site preparation for the project. The *Salmonid Field Protocols Handbook: Techniques for Assessing Status and Trends in Salmon and Trout Populations* (Johnson et al. 2007), will be used as a guide to conduct fish population estimate snorkel surveys. Additionally, surveys for as-built plans will be conducted immediately following completion of construction and annual inspections of structures and features will be conducted during the summers of 2018 and 2019.

Inspection of site stability and recovery will include condition of streambank erosion control measures, recovery of the spring fed swale in access route, and overall qualitative health and vigor of revegetation and natural recruitment. Areas of revegetation will have pre- and post- project photo-point monitoring using GPS-located monitoring sites in early summer. Streambank stability and vegetation will be monitored annually for five years, at which point the need for continued monitoring will be assessed. The Photo Point Monitoring Handbook, General Technical Report PNW-GTR-526 (Hall 2002), will be used as a guide to conduct photo monitoring.

If bank stabilization fails or revegetation efforts fail and natural regeneration is inadequate, remedial actions will be required. Encroachment of non-native species will be noted and recorded. If target non-native invasive species, such as spotted knapweed, begins growing within the project area, the vegetation will be treated by SRRC's Noxious Weeds Crew.

Agency Permits

The applicant has also submitted applications for permitting and/or coverage of:

- Army Corp of Engineers Section 404 Permit – Nationwide Permit 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife – Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act

Notice of Applicability & Project Determination

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities as described in the NOI are categorically exempt from CEQA review and may proceed under the General 401 Order.

Receiving Water: Taylor Creek, Salmon River Hydrologic Unit 105.24

Total Impacts: Temporary: 0.023 acres of riparian vegetation
24 linear feet of streambed & bank

Permanent: 0.008 acres of riparian vegetation
12 linear feet of streambed & bank

Latitude/Longitude: 41.1717° N, 123.092° W

Reporting

The SRRC will submit monitoring reports annually for five years following implementation. Monitoring reports will be due to the Regional Water Board by December 31st of each year. The reports will describe the condition of structures, site stability, recovery of the site, and will document the status of achievement of performance standards and project goals.

Monitoring reports shall include:

1. A short narrative summary of findings.
2. Identification and discussion of problems with achieving performance standards.
3. Proposed corrective measures (requires Regional Water Board approval).
4. Photo monitoring images.

As required in Section B, Item 4, of the *General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects*, Monitoring Reports shall be submitted at least annually documenting the achievement of performance standards and project goals. In addition, 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 at a minimum: photographs with

a descriptive title, the date each photograph was taken, the name of the photographic site, the WDID 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 and WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals. Document submittals shall be made electronically to: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

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

Please call Jake Shannon at (707) 576-2673 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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