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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 21, 2020

Christine Dill  
625 Doolan Canyon Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
[cris50@sonic.net](mailto:cris50@sonic.net)

Dear Ms. Dill:

**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:** Doolin Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration  
WDID No. 1B20149WNME, ECM PIN No. CW-868226

On July 28, 2020, 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 Doolin Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration (Project). The Project is located on Doolin Creek, tributary to the Russian River in the Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00, on the west side of Ukiah, Mendocino County. Coordinates of the Project area are latitude 39.1292° N and longitude 123.2193° W.

Regional Water Board staff has 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 Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

**Project Purpose and Description:**

The primary purpose of the Project is restoration of an approximately 100-foot long section of riparian vegetation along the eroding left streambank of Doolin Creek near 625 Doolan Canyon Road. The Project involves laying back the over-steepened left bank and use of bioengineered revegetation techniques including coir lifts, woven willow wall, strategic wood placement, and container planting. The bioengineered live willow structure with coir wrapped lifts is designed to provide rooted, flexible woody resistance

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VALERIE L. QUINTO, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

to erosive stream power along the toe of the streambank to resist erosion at high flows and support robust riparian vegetation.

Construction of the live willow structure will begin with an excavator pulling back the streambank starting above ordinary high-water mark to reduce the slope angle above the channel and create a flat foundation for installation of two to three coir lifts. Coir lifts are built with alternating layers of willow brush and layers of coconut fabric wrapped around alluvial gravel skimmed from the adjacent gravel bar. The largest bottom lift will be approximately 35-feet long and 6-feet wide. Prior to installation of the bottom lift, small willow boughs will be placed over a smoothed gravel bed with their leafy ends extending toward the channel to provide washout protection. Layers of willow will be installed between each lift of fabric wrapped gravel with additional willow stakes placed in front and along edges of the lifts to connect with the woven willow wall.

The woven willow wall will begin at the upstream end of the Project area where existing vegetation ends and extend approximately 75 feet downstream along the front edge of the coir lifts with brush layers. The upstream end of the wall will have approximately 3-foot tall willow posts that become shorter in the downstream direction where the wall climbs over the coir lifts. Long willow branches will be tightly woven between the willow posts with rice straw pushed into the back side to create a filter to retain fine sediment. The woven willow wall will establish live vegetation to trap sediment from the unstable bank above, create riparian habitat, and create a shelf where native trees and other riparian vegetation will be planted.

The Project is designed to reduce sedimentation from future bank failure and improve riparian habitat along approximately 100 linear feet of streambank. The Project will be implemented when the creek has stopped flowing or flow is minimal at the time of implementation. If necessary, a water diversion system may be installed to transport the stream flow around the work area to the downstream end of the Project area.

The Project will result in temporary impacts to approximately 0.02 acre of riparian area and 100 linear feet of waters of the state. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials. The Project will be implemented during the low-flow period in October 2020 and is expected to take approximately 10 days.

<b>Receiving Water:</b>	Doolin Creek, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00
<b>Filled / Excavated Area:</b>	Permanent Area Impacted: None Temporary Area Impacted: 0.02 acre of riparian area
<b>Total Linear Impacts:</b>	Length Permanently Impacted: None Length Temporarily Impacted: 100 linear feet of streambank
<b>Latitude/Longitude:</b>	39.1292 ° N / 123.2193 ° W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Order. Upon enrollment of this Project under the General 401 Order, the Applicant, Christine Dill, may seek authorization through the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act under Fish & G. Code, §§ 1653, including this authorization letter and all applicable materials and submittals to meet California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements.

**Monitoring:**

Please be advised that coverage under this General 401 Order requires that a Monitoring Report be submitted at least annually documenting the achievement of performance standards and project goals. Regional Water Board staff have reviewed and approve the Monitoring Plan, performance standards, and monitoring and reporting schedules contained in the NOI. The monitoring plan includes measurements for percent area of live ground cover, stem counts of live willow and planted native tree saplings, and pre- and post-construction photo point monitoring.

**Project Tracking:**

It has been determined through regional, state, and national studies that tracking of mitigation and restoration projects must be improved to better assess their performance. In addition, to effectively carry out the state's Wetlands Conservation Policy of no net loss to wetlands, the state needs to closely track both aquatic habitat losses and the success of mitigation and restoration projects. Therefore, this certification requires the Applicant to upload impact totals and mitigation measures to a web-based project tracking system called "EcoAtlas" using the "Project Tracker" form, which can be found here: <http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org>. Instructions and how to request a username and password are on the Project Tracker website. More information about EcoAtlas is available at: [www.ecoatlas.org](http://www.ecoatlas.org).

Within 30 days of issuance of this NOA, the Applicant shall upload Project information to EcoAtlas using the "Project Tracker" form found at the following website: <http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org/>. Required information includes a Project map that may either be uploaded to EcoAtlas or created within EcoAtlas by using the "draw polygon" tool. Required monitoring reports shall be uploaded to EcoAtlas as well as submitted electronically to the Regional Water Board. To upload monitoring reports into EcoAtlas, use the "Files and Links" tab found on your Project's EcoAtlas page.

**Notice of Completion:**

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board 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 to the Regional Water Board shall be made electronically to:

[NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov).

This authorization of dredge and fill activities expires on August 21, 2025. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this NOA and General 401 Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Please contact Dean Prat at [Dean.Prat@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dean.Prat@waterboards.ca.gov) or (707) 576-2801 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:

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

cc: State Water Resources Control Board, [Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)  
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Teri Jo Barber, Ridge to River Environmental Services, [ridgetoriver@gmail.com](mailto:ridgetoriver@gmail.com)