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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 14, 2023

Ms. Theresa Engle  
Caltrans District 4  
111 Grand Avenue, 13th Floor, MS 8  
Oakland, CA 94162  
[Theresa.Engle@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Theresa.Engle@dot.ca.gov)

Dear Ms. Engle:

**Subject:** Notice of Applicability (NOA) for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. SB14008IN for US Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit No. 5 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations

**File:** CDOT Highway 116 PM 14.35-20.4 Emergency Repair Project, WDID No. 1B23072WNSO, ECM PIN CW-888397, Caltrans EA: 04-3Y320

On May 24, 2023, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. SB14008IN for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit No. 5 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations (General 401 Certification) for the Highway 116 PM 14.35-20.4 Emergency Repair Project (Project). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) authorized the Project on May 31, 2023 (USACE File No. 2023-00230S).

The Project is within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.11, Guerneville Hydrologic Sub-Area. The Project is on State Route (SR) 116 at four post mile (PM) locations between 14.35 and 20.4. A site at PM 25.0 was deemed to not be a federally jurisdictional channel and is not included in this General 401 Certification. The Project, beginning at PM 14.35, is approximately 12 miles east of Sebastopol and 2 miles west of Guerneville in Sonoma County, California. Coordinates for PM 14.35 are latitude 38.493993° N, and longitude 122.961600° W.

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HECTOR BEDOLLA, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast)

Regional Water Board staff have determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is exempt from CEQA review Title 14, section 15269 and meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Certification.

**Project Purpose and Description:** The Project will replace four failed and undersized federally jurisdictional culverts on SR 116 in Sonoma County that were damaged due to recent flooding and are no longer able to contain flows. The failed culverts are compromised due to sediments that obstructed the systems resulting in flooding of the surrounding areas, erosion of the road embankment, water pooling on the highways, and potholes and cracks on the pavement as direct outcomes. The culverts will be replaced, and two culverts will be upsized to prevent similar future occurrences. The Project involves work at the following PM locations:

PM 14.35 (DS-1) – Remove and replace the existing 18-inch diameter culvert in-kind. (Temporary impact to streams: 40 LF, 0.0014 ac).

PM 14.37 (DS-2) – Remove and replace an existing inlet and a 6.5 LF culvert in-kind, upsize a 40 LF culvert by 12-inches, and replace a headwall with an upsized flared end section (FES). (Temporary impact to streams: 48.5 LF, 0.0022 ac). (Permanent impact to streams: 3.83 LF, 0.0003 ac). As an offset to permanent impacts, a total of 41 LF will be upsized by 12-inches.

PM 14.44 (DS-3) – Remove and replace the existing 48-inch diameter culvert in-kind. (Temporary impact to streams: 42 LF, 0.0039 ac).

PM 20.40 (DS-4) – Remove the existing 12-inch diameter culvert and upsize with an 18-inch diameter culvert of the same length. (Temporary impact to streams: 33 LF, 0.0008 ac). 33 LF of culvert will be upsized by 6-inches.

The Project will result in approximately 163.5 LF (0.0082 acres) of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters of stream bed due replacement of the existing culverts. Permanent impacts will result at one location amounting to 3.83 LF (0.0003 acres) due to a new FES replacing a headwall. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be employed to prevent pollutants, sediment, or debris from entering any drainage inlets or water ways. Disturbed areas will be hydroseeded with an appropriate seed mix at the end of construction to restore temporary impacts. Compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts is not required due to enhancements to streams amounting to an offset credit of 37 LF (0.0007 acres) from culvert upsizing. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within the application materials. The Project is expected to be under construction from March 15 to October 15, 2023.

**Receiving Water:** The Project will impact unnamed, ephemeral streams within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.11, Guerneville Hydrologic Sub-Area.

**Filled / Excavated Area:** Permanent Area Impacted: 0.0003 acres of streams  
Temporary Area Impacted: 0.0082 acres of streams

**Total Linear Impacts:** Length Permanently Impacted: 3.83 linear feet of streams  
Length Temporarily Impacted: 163.5 linear feet of streams

**Latitude/Longitude:**

PM 14.35	38.493993° N, 122.961600° W
PM 14.37	38.493712° N, 122.961389° W
PM 14.44	38.492642° N, 122.961042° W
PM 20.40	38.465663° N, 122.881596° W

**Project Tracking:** A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted by Caltrans within 45 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 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 Caltrans' NOI. Please include the Project name and WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals.

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)

A payment of \$2,734.00 was received for the Project on August 8, 2023. The Project qualified as an emergency project authorized by a General Order, Category F (Fee Code 85), in the current fee schedule. This Order will be subject to annual billing while the project is constructed and /or monitored using the [current fee schedule](#) at the time of billing:  
([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water\\_quality/docs/dredgefillcalculator.xls](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/docs/dredgefillcalculator.xls))

Annual fees will be automatically invoiced to the Applicant.

***Caltrans must notify the Regional Water Board at the end of the construction period with a final Notice of Completion report to request termination of annual billing.*** Regional Water Board staff may request a site visit at the end of construction or monitoring to confirm Project status and compliance with the Order.

This authorization of certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on September 14, 2028. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in the certification are not subject to the expiration date outlined above and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

September 14, 2023

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Certification.

Please call Susan Stewart at (707) 576-2657 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Valerie Quinto  
Executive Officer

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Weblink: The State Water Resources Control Board the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. SB14008IN for US Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit No. 5 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations can be found here:

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

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

cc: State Water Resources Control Board, [Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)  
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Jennifer Siu, EPA Region 9, [Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov)  
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[Michael.S.Orellana@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.S.Orellana@usace.army.mil)