



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 27, 2024

Mr. Tanner Cunningham
Stillwater Sciences
850 G Street, Suite K
Arcata, CA 95521
tcunningham@stillwatersci.com

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Subject: Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project - Notice of Applicability of Coverage under Order No. R1-2020-0006 General NPDES Permit for Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters of the North Coast Region

File: Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project, 195 Old Somerville Creek, Garberville, Humboldt County, WDID No. 1B24082NHUM, Place ID CW-885535

Stillwater Sciences (Permittee) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project for coverage under General Order No. R1-2020-0006, Waste Discharge Requirements for Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters in the North Coast Region, on May 8, 2024. Submittal of the required application fee was received on June 19, 2024. The NOI was determined to be complete upon submittal of the updated Best Management Practices/Pollution Prevention Plan (BMP/PPP) on June 15, 2024.

Based on information provided in the NOI, water characterization sample results, and in the BMP/PPP for the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project, Regional Water Board staff determined that the Facility's discharge, as described in the NOI, qualifies as a low threat discharge and is eligible for coverage under the General Order. Therefore, this Notice of Applicability (NOA) serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project.

The Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project is intended to augment the summer streamflow in Redwood Creek, thereby increasing habitat availability and quality for rearing coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus*

HECTOR BEDOLLA, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

mykiss). The Project includes 10 million gallons of off-channel water storage and associated plumbing infrastructure to deliver approximately 30 gallons per minute of flow augmentation to Redwood Creek during the dry season. The off-channel water storage consists of five tanks and two ponds, Eastern Pond and Western Pond. Stored water is acquired through the collection of wet-season runoff from two tributaries, Eastern Tributary and Western Tributary, and rainwater catchment. Enhanced flow amounts and timing may be adjusted year to year depending on flow and weather conditions to maximize the instream benefits of pool depth and connectivity, cool water temperatures, and high dissolved oxygen. Stored water may be discharged at two locations within Western Tributary; Discharge Point 001, located approximately 50 feet upstream of the confluence of Redwood Creek and Western Tributary, and Discharge Point 002, located within the cooling gallery, approximately 300 feet upstream of the confluence of Redwood Creek and Western Tributary. The uses described in the submitted NOI and authorized under this General Order enrollment include:

- Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project: the release of impounded water from off-channel water storage to augment Redwood Creek's summer streamflow.

A copy of the General Order is included as Attachment A, and available electronically at the [Regional Water Board website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/) for adopted Orders (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/). Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R1-2024-0031 (MRP) replaces the MRP contained within the General Order and is included as Attachment B to this NOA.

Please carefully review the General Order and MRP and familiarize yourself with all its requirements and provisions. If you have any questions regarding this NOA or your enrollment under the General Order, or if you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, you may contact Matthew Herman, by telephone at 707-576-2683 or email at Matthew.Herman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Valerie Quinto
Executive Officer

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Attachments:

Attachment A: Waste Discharge Requirements for Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters in the North Coast Region, Order No. R1-2020-0006

Attachment B: Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project, Order No. R1-2024-0031

cc: Charles Reed, charles.reed@waterboards.ca.gov
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ATTACHMENT A

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW THREAT DISCHARGES
TO SURFACE WATERS IN THE NORTH COAST REGION
ORDER NO. R1-2020-0006**

Here is a link to Attachment A on the [North Coast Regional Water Board Website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2020/20_0006_Low%20Threat%20Discharges%20to%20Surface%20Waters.pdf):

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/pdf/2020/20_0006_Low%20Threat%20Discharges%20to%20Surface%20Waters.pdf)

ATTACHMENT B

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
ORDER NO. R1-2024-0031**