
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 9, 2026

Siskiyou Telephone Company Certified Mail No. 7019 1120 0000 7218 3462
Kisten Berryhill, Legally Responsible Person
30 Telco Way
Etna, CA 96027
k.berryhill@siskiyoutelephone.com

North Sky Communications, LLC Certified Mail No. 7019 1120 0000 7218 3479
Chris Stanley, Director of Operations
16701 SE McGillivray Blvd, Suite 200
Vancouver, WA 98683
Chris.Stanley@northskycomm.com

Kinnan Engineering, Inc. Certified Mail No. 7019 1120 0000 7218 3486
DbA KEI Direction Drilling
Israel Wafer, President
4091 Upper Cama Road
Camas Valley, OR 97416
info@keidirectionaldrilling.com

Bonfire Infrastructure Group
Stephen Crawford, Project Manager
4500 Cherry Creek Drive South, Suite 1200
Denver, CO 80246
Stephen.crawford@bonfireig.com

TRANSMITTAL VIA EMAIL and CERTIFIED US MAIL

Dear Kisten Berryhill, Chris Stanley, Israel Wafer, and Stephen Crawford:

Subject: **Transmittal of Emergency Cleanup and Abatement and Investigative Order No. R1-2026-0062**

File: SMARTS WDID 1 47C411008; Siskiyou Telephone Middle-Mile Broadband Project

The enclosed Order directs Siskiyou Telephone Company, Kinnan Engineering, Inc., and North Sky Communications, LLC (Dischargers) to take steps to clean up and abate

ALEXANDRA HART, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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the effects of the unauthorized discharge of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) waste to waters of the state.

This letter transmits the enclosed combined Cleanup and Abatement Order, pursuant to Water Code section 13304, and Investigative Order, pursuant to Water Code section 13267 (collectively, the Order) issued by the California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board). The Order pertains to discharges and threats of discharge of HDD waste from the Grant Bluffs Bore Entry Pit on Salmon River Road, approximately 650 feet east of the U.S. Forest Service Butler Creek Campground in Siskiyou County, to an adjacent wetland, an unnamed tributary to the Salmon River, and the Salmon River, that have created or threaten to create a condition of pollution or nuisance. The Grant Bluffs Bore is associated with the Siskiyou Telephone Middle-Mile Broadband project in partnership with California Department of Technology as part of the Middle-Mile Broadband Network Initiative.

Order Requirements

Specifically, the Order requires you to:

1. Immediately cease all unauthorized discharges of HDD waste and contain all HDD waste and bore return water at all times, including nights, weekends, and holidays, and submit a written certification of cessation and containment by October 19, 2026.
2. Submit a Waste Disposal Plan for proper off-site disposal of all HDD waste including all material recovered during in-stream and riparian cleanup at a permitted facility by October 19, 2026.
3. Submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), that addresses discharge stabilization, source control, and containment, and wetland, in-stream and riparian cleanup, at the Grant Bluffs Bore Entry Pit, the adjacent wetland, Tributary 1, and the Salmon River confluence by October 26, 2026.
4. Submit a Discharge Incident and Characterization Report in connection with the Grant Bluffs Bore by November 9, 2026.
5. Submit an Aquatic Resource Impacts Assessment and Sensitive Receptor Survey for Grant Bluffs Bore by October 19, 2026, and Project-wide by November 9, 2026.
6. Submit a project wide Emergency Response and Notification Plan by November 9, 2026.
7. Beginning upon approval of the CAP, submit Weekly Progress Reports.
8. Submit a CAP Completion Report within 14 days of completion of all corrective actions.

Please be aware that any instream cleanup work requires preauthorization from both the North Coast Water Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to initiation.

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The enclosed Order is a final Order. With the issuance of this Order, all requirements to clean up, abate, and provide technical reports, and their deadlines, are effective immediately.

Future correspondence regarding this matter will be sent to you at this address unless an alternative address is provided to the North Coast Water Board. Failure to accept mail from the North Coast Water Board is not a valid excuse for non-compliance with any future enforcement orders, and a failure to respond or otherwise appear at a future enforcement proceeding could subject you to a default order and the imposition of administrative civil liability.

If you have technical questions concerning the Order, please contact Heaven Moore, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, by phone at (707) 576-2753 or by email at Heaven.Moore@waterboards.ca.gov, or Monica Bueno, Environmental Scientist by phone at (707) 576-2223 or by email at Monica.Bueno@waterboards.ca.gov. If you have legal questions concerning the Order, please contact Nathan Jacobsen, Attorney IV with the State Water Resources Control Board Office of Chief Counsel, by phone at (916) 341-5181 or by email at Nathan.Jacobsen@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed by
Claudia E Villacorta
Date: 2026.10.09
13:47:37 -07'00'

Valerie Quinto
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Cleanup and Abatement and Investigative Order R1-2026-0062

Certified Mail – Return Receipt requested

cc:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Jeremiah Puget, Senior Environmental Scientist, Enforcement Coordinator
Jeremiah.Puget@waterboards.ca.gov

Heaven Moore, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer
Heaven.Moore@waterboards.ca.gov

Monica Bueno, Environmental Scientist
Monica.Bueno@waterboards.ca.gov

Ryan Bey, Senior Environmental Scientist

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Ryan.Bey@Waterboards.ca.gov

Kason Grady, P.E., Cannabis and Enforcement Division Supervisor
Kason.Grady@waterboards.ca.gov

Joshua Curtis, Assistant Executive Officer
Joshua.Curtis@Waterboards.ca.gov

Claudia Villacorta, P.E., Assistant Executive Officer
Claudia.Villacorta@waterboards.ca.gov

Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer
Valerie.Quinto@waterboards.ca.gov

State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel

Nathan Jacobsen, Attorney IV
Nathan.Jacobsen@waterboards.ca.gov

Bayley Toft-Dupuy, Attorney IV
Bayley.Toft-Dupuy@waterboards.ca.gov

Jessica Nadolski, Senior Environmental Scientist
Jessica.Nadolski@Waterboards.ca.gov

Paul Hann, Environmental Program Manager 1
Paul.Hann@waterboards.ca.gov

Michael Buckman, Environmental Program Manager
Michael.Buckman@waterboards.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

David Manthorne, Senior Environmental Scientist
David.Manthorne@wildlife.ca.gov

Monty Larson, Environmental Scientist
Monty.Larson@wildlife.ca.gov

U.S. Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest

Adam Dresser, Hydrologist
adam.dresser@usda.gov

Siskiyou County

Rick Florendo, Environmental Health, Deputy Director

October 9, 2026

EHPermitTech@co.siskiyou.ca.us

Caltrans District 2

Jennifer Osmondson, Acting Coordinator, Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative
jennifer.osmondson@dot.ca.gov

Siskiyou Telephone Company Project Team

Eric Demro, Duly Authorized Representative
Eric.demro@bonfireig.com

Adam O'Connor, Qualified SWPPP Developer, Stantec Consulting Services
Adam.OConnor@stantec.com

Iris Koski, Stantec Consulting Services
Iris.koski@stantec.com

Karuk Tribe

Bill Tripp, Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy
btripp@karuk.us

Grant Johnson, Water Quality Program Manager
gjohnson@karuk.us

California Department of Technology

Mark Monroe, Deputy Director
Mark.Monroe@state.ca.gov

Robert Payne, Project Manager
Robert.Payne@state.ca.gov

Shannon MartinGuzman, Project Delivery Manager
shannon.m-guzman@state.ca.gov

Alicia Alvarado, Info Tech Manager
Alicia.Alvarado@state.ca.gov