



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 8, 2012

Mr. Miles Slatery
City of Eureka
531 K Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mr. Slatery:

Subject: Notice of Applicability for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects

File: Eureka, City of – Sequoia Park Habitat Restoration
WDID No. 1B12031WNHU

On April 5, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received your Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of *General Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects* (General 401 Certification Order) for the Sequoia Park Habitat Restoration Project (Project). The Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Sequoia Creek and Sequoia Park Pond in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00. The primary purpose of the Project is to restore aquatic habitat associated with Sequoia Creek and reduce fine sediment discharge caused by excess sediment build-up in Sequoia Park Pond.

Phase I of the Project includes extending an existing split-rail exclusion fence between Sequoia Creek and the parking lot, and adding a new section of fence between the playground and creek. The purpose of the additional 105 linear feet of exclusion fencing is to protect the riparian area and allow more vegetation to grow along the stream channel. Non-native plants will also be removed from several locations along the stream channel. Phase I activities also include adding 2-4 cubic yards of angular rock to restore an existing log weir located downstream of the Sequoia Park Pond and the addition of 3 cubic yards of washed gravel along 110 linear feet of the Sequoia Creek channel to improve habitat for macroinvertebrates and provide a gravel source to improve spawning habitat downstream in Martin Slough.

Phase II activities involve removal of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of fine sediment from Sequoia Park Pond to increase its capacity, improve habitat for various aquatic

species, and minimize the amount of fine sediment discharged downstream to Martin Slough. During sediment removal activities the clean water from upstream will be piped around the pond and back into Sequoia Creek immediately downstream from the playground area. The pond will be drained for sediment removal activities by piping flow from the pond outlet to a large field for infiltration and sediment removal before being allowed to flow back into the stream channel. Excavated sediment will be hauled to an upland location approved by the California Department of Fish and Game.

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 Certification Order.

Receiving Water: Sequoia Creek and Sequoia Park Pond in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: 440 square feet of stream channel and 0.70 acre of pond bottom
Area Permanently Impacted: None

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: 110 linear feet of stream channel
Length Permanently Impacted: None

Dredge Volume: 1,000 cubic yards

Latitude/Longitude: 40.77622 N / 124.14860 W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Certification Order. Please be advised that coverage under the General 401 Certification Order requires implementation of the *Monitoring Plan* submitted to this office on April 19, 2012. Monitoring reports shall be submitted at least annually to document the achievement of performance standards and project goals. In addition, you must submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after project completion. Included with the NOC shall be a site map (map format requirements are listed in General 401 Certification Order) of the project location, including final boundaries of the restoration area(s), and post-project photographs. Each photograph shall include a descriptive title, date taken, photographic site, and photographic orientation. Please include the Regional Water Board's file name and WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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Electronic

Copies to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, 601 Startare Drive,
Box 14, Eureka, CA 95501
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions, 1455 Market Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398