ATTACHMENT F – CHECKLIST FORM FOR ASSESSING GRAZING OPERATIONS

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region

TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF ORDER No. R2-2025-00XX
CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRAZING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION (NAPA RIVER, SONOMA CREEK, PETALUMA RIVER, AND TOMALES BAY WATERSHEDS, AND ALL GRAZING OPERATIONS IN POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE)

Section I. Instructions

Please complete the Ranch Information and checklist below. Items checked 'Yes' indicate a potential water quality problem requiring corrective action. Items checked 'No' indicate no further action is likely needed. Make notes on your observations in the spaces provided and refer to the Resources List on the Conditional Waiver web page for more information on selecting and implementing water quality improvements at your ranch.

To view the Conditional Waiver web page, please visit our web site at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/ and search for 'Agricultural Programs'.

Section II. Ranch Information

Ranch Name:	Ranch Address:
Acres Grazed:	Nearest Water Body:
Type and Number of Animals:	Animal Density:
Ranch Operator Name:	Landowner Name:
Grazing Operation Assessor's Parcel Number(s):	

Section III. Checklist Preparer Information

Name of person completing the checklist:
Date (mm/dd/yy):
Weather Conditions (e.g. dry, raining, post-rain):

Section IV. Checklist for Assessing Grazing Operation

Sediment Erosion Sources

Accelerated sediment erosion on pasture lands can be caused by current or historic land use practices and may occur in the form of sheet, rill, or gully erosion, or from unstable slopes such as slumps or landslides. Such features may also be naturally occurring due to geology, slope, heavy rainfall or other environmental conditions. The goal is to determine if current or historic grazing practices caused accelerated sediment erosion and to implement corrective actions. Unpaved roads and trails can be a major source of sediment production and delivery to streams. The effects of sediment delivery from roads are most acute where they are hydrologically connected to streams. A hydrologically connected road is any road or road segment that has a continuous surface flow path to a natural stream channel during a storm runoff event.

Pastures	**Yes**	**No**
Upon close inspection, is bare soil visible in pastures?		
Is land surface runoff causing soil erosion?		
Are there gullies, slumps, or headcuts in pastures?		

Road Erosion	**Yes**	**No**
Do any road surfaces consist of bare soil?		
Do unpaved roads show signs of surface erosion such as rills or gullies?		
Are there gullies caused by unprotected culvert outlets?		
Are drainage ditches eroding, or partially filled with sediment after the winter?		
Do ranch roads have unimproved stream crossings?		
Do ranch roads cross unstable slopes?		

Locations and extent of problem areas:
Other types of erosion noted:
Suggestions for correcting problems indicated by yes answers above:

Nutrients and Pathogens

Pollution from animal waste: This generally occurs where animals congregate or are confined, or where animals have access to creeks. Nutrient pollution problems are best evaluated during the rainy season when hydrologic connection from animal waste sources to streams can be identified by land surface runoff.

Pollution from Animal Waste	**Yes**	**No**
Are there possible sources of nutrients and pathogens from direct animal access to creeks?		
Is land surface runoff carrying animal waste to streams?		
Are animal shading areas, feeding areas, water troughs, or salting areas near creeks?		
Are manure stockpiles located where runoff could flow into creeks?		

Locations and extent of problem areas:
Other types of animal waste pollution noted:
Suggestions for correcting problems indicated by yes answers above:

Riparian Areas

Condition of Creeks and Streams: Vegetation and stream banks in riparian areas are sensitive to damage from livestock, which can adversely affect water quality. Livestock should be excluded from or carefully managed in riparian areas. The condition of riparian areas can be evaluated at any time of the year.

Condition of Creeks and Streams	**Yes**	**No**
Do livestock have access to riparian areas?		
Do livestock have access to riparian areas year-round?		
Do livestock congregate in riparian areas?		
Is there less tree canopy cover in riparian areas accessed by livestock versus those that are not?		
Do any road surfaces consist of bare soil within the riparian area?		
Are water troughs located in or adjacent to riparian areas?		
Is bare soil exposed along stream banks?		
Are stream banks actively eroding or trampled?		
Are livestock water crossings unstable or eroding?		
Is there excessive algae growth in streams?		

Describe livestock grazing seasonality (which seasons, how long, cattle density, trigger to let livestock into riparian area):
Vegetation cover in riparian area (e.g. full riparian, sporadic riparian, wetland grasses, bare dirt):

Location and extent of problem areas:
Suggestions for correcting problems indicated by yes answers above:

Mercury

Properties in the Walker Creek watershed, downstream of the Gambonini Mine, have mercury laden sediments in the depositional (floodplain) zone adjoining the creek. Mercury-laden sediment from bank failure, sheet, rill, and gully erosion can disperse into the water column where it can be re-suspended or transformed by certain microorganisms into methylmercury, a highly toxic form that builds up in fish, shellfish, and animals that eat fish. Additionally, many deposits on the floodplain can also produce methylmercury. As well as performing the assessments for erosion and sediment sources, nutrients and pathogens, and riparian areas, landowner/operators in the Walker Creek watershed, downstream of the Gambonini mine, are required to assess their land management practices to evaluate the potential for mercury and methyl mercury pollution.

Mercury	**Yes**	**No**
Is irrigation runoff unmanaged?		
Are some creek banks unstable or eroding?		
Are structures that collect sediment a potential source of methyl mercury?		
Could buffer zones potentially produce methyl mercury?		
Could off-site water supply/storage facilities increase methyl mercury production?		

Locations of problem areas:
Suggestions for correcting problems indicated by yes answers above:

Tribal Cultural Resources

Tribal cultural resources are defined in the California Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21074 and include sites, features, sacred places, objects, and geographically defined landscapes with cultural value to California Native American tribes. Many tribal cultural resources are listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC section 5020.1(k). This Conditional Waiver does not authorize any activity adversely impacting a tribal cultural resource. Dischargers are responsible for complying with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations related to the discovery and protection of tribal cultural resources and human remains, including PRC sections 5097.98 and 5097.99, and California Health and Safety Code section 7050.5.

Ranch / Farm Site Map