PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Applicant: Mr. Kim Batchelder
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Project Name: North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail

Project Location: Sonoma County

Project Description: On April 12, 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401 Water Quality Certification related to the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project. The Project was previously authorized by the State Water Board in 2009 (file no. SB09003IN) and amended in 2011 but the authorized project activities were not completed before expiration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) (2009-00204N) Nationwide Permits in 2011. The purpose of the overall project is to create a 4.25 mile multi-use trail to accommodate hikers, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists. The proposed remaining activities include the following:

- the redistribution of river rock (40 cubic yards) for the creation of ten armored ford crossings (wet crossings);
- replacement of the existing wooden vehicle bridge which connects to the Jacobs Ranch driveway and spans the South Fork of Matanzas Creek;
- demolition of the existing concrete abutments up to an elevation approximately 10 feet from the bridge deck; and
- the existing bridge on the South Fork of Matanzas Creek will be replaced with a modified railroad flatcar with a wood deck.

In order to accomplish the improvements described above, the contractor will use three pieces of equipment: (1) trail dozer to cut the initial trail tread cut while maintaining a proper outslope and trail grade across native soils; (2) mini-excavator to pull back the uphill slope in order to reduce sloughing and to stabilize the trail bank; and (3) a mechanical rock porter to haul rock from a construction staging area to the stream crossings. The trail dozer will cut trail tread into native soil for a 7-10% grade and outslope the trail to 3-5%. The mini-excavator will pull down the upslope side to create a 2:1 slope to reduce sloughing of the trail. The mini-excavator will be used to shape the rolling dips and place the 9-14" rock into the armored crossings. Armored crossings will be installed at each of the ephemeral stream crossings to allow seasonal rains to drain through the trail. The armored crossings

will provide trail users with a harden surface during the winter. Installation of the armored crossings will take place during the dry season when there is no threat of sediment delivery downstream.

Erosion and siltation controls will be applied during and after project construction. Once the trail tread has been properly outsloped and shaped, the offcast will be raked out. All exposed soils will then be covered with native seed mix broadcasted over the trail edge and covered with certified weed-free straw. Stream corridors will be lined with silt fencing to prevent fine or coarse material from entering into the stream channel.

The bridge replacement component of the project will require the removal of an existing bridge including the abutments. A new bridge will be installed that will widen the stream corridor to allow more natural flows during large rain events without constricting the waters into a narrow channel. A drilling rig will be used from the paved road to create the concrete pier holes. A crane will lay the bridge onto the piers which will then be bolted and welded into place. The 42' bridge span will be placed on concrete piers set into native soil. The channel will then be sloped back to ground level at a 2:1 slope and armored with 9-14" rock to stabilize the bank. The exposed soil will be seeded with a native seed mix in the areas along the abutments with full sun exposure. The bridge project will take place between September 1 and October 15 when the stream flows are lowest. A coffer dam will be constructed to pass water from upstream of the bridge construction to downstream of the bridge. Straw wattles and silt fencing will be installed to prevent sediment delivery into the stream channel.

On October 13, 2009, the State Water Board issued a Certification for the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. On October 14, 2011 the State Water Board issued an amendment to the Certification due to minor Project changes with a subsequent increase in impacts to waters of the U.S. The changes resulted in the additional permanent impacts of 48 square feet (0.001 acre) and the volume of 24 cubic ft. (0.89 cubic yards) of fill to each of the two drainages, 9 and 10. On April 12, 2012, the State Water Board received an application from the applicant, requesting a Certification for the Project to complete the project after the expiration of the Corps' Nationwide Permits on November 9, 2011. The 2009 Corps' authorization expired after two years. As a result of the application on April 12, 2012, the State Water Board issued a Public Notice on June 15, 2012. The Corps determined that it would enroll the Project under the newly issued Nationwide Permits (NWPs) 33 and 42. On March 19, 2012, the Corps issued fifty NWPs. As a result of these events, the State Water Board is now reissuing the Certification for the Project which will include all the Project changes that have occurred since the first Certification was issued on October 13, 2009.

	Projected permanent and temporary effects to waters of the U.S. and waters of the state for the Project are summarized in Table 1, of Attachment C.
CEQA:	The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, acting as lead agency under CEQA approved a MND for the project on November 15, 2007. State Water Board staff have reviewed and considered the environmental document and the proposed mitigation measures. The State Water Board has determined that the Project, including the approved changes to the Project, will not result in any significant adverse water quality impacts.
Federal Agency Permit(s):	The Corps' San Francisco District issued a letter on May 10, 2012 for this Project authorizing coverage for NWPs 33 and 42. The NWPs will cover all changes that have occurred since the Project's initial coverage under the old NWP 33 and 42. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Biological Opinion and incidental take permit for the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) on October 30, 2009. (file number 81420-2009-F-0954)
State Agency Permit(s):	The California Department of Fish and Game 1602 permit is valid until October 15, 2013. (file number 1600-2009-0119-3)
Receiving Waters/ Hydrologic Units:	See Tables 1of Attachment C
Impacted Waters:	<u>Permanent Impacts</u> Streambed: 0.009 acre, 75 linear feet <u>Temporary Impacts</u> Streambed: 0.002 acre, 10 linear feet
Non-Compensatory:	A combination of avoidance and minimization measures are proposed to offset potential effects of Project activities to waters of the U.S and waters of the state. All feasible and practical measures will be undertaken to avoid and/or minimize impacts to waters during construction. The Project will be conducted based on mitigation measures in the Mitigated Negative Declaration which are included as conditions of this Certification.
Compensatory Mitigation:	A total of 100 square feet of enhancement for compensatory mitigation at the sloped banks adjacent to the vehicular bridge over the South Fork Matanzas Creek.

	Compensatory mitigation for impacts to biological resources and waters of the U.S and the state are outlined in the MND for the Project.
Public Notice:	In satisfaction of the public notice requirements of section 3858, title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which governs the State's Certification Program, a Public Notice of Application for Certification for the subject Project was posted on the State Water Board website on June 15, 2012.
Fees:	April 12, 2012, a check from the applicant in the amount of $944.00 was received by the State Water Board in payment of required fees associated with the permit application.