

State Water Resources Control Board

July 12, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Batchelder:

SUBJECT: REISSUANCE OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR THE SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT NORTH SLOPE SONOMA MOUNTAIN RIDGE TRAIL PROJECT, SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (FILE NO SB09003IN)

On October 13, 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS) for the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project (Project). On October 14, 2011 the State Water Board issued an amendment to the Certification due to minor Project changes which reduced impacts to waters of the United States. On April 12, 2012, the State Water Board received an application from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District requesting Certification to complete the previously authorized project activities not completed prior to the expiration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits on November 9, 2011. The State Water Board deemed the application complete on June 12, 2012.

State Water Board staff reviewed the information submitted by SCAPOS describing activities, proposed water quality protection measures, and compensatory mitigation for the Project. The State Water Board staff also consulted with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Boards) on the Project.

Pursuant to title 23, section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations, I hereby make the Certification determination described in the Enclosure for this Project. Attachments A through D of the Enclosures are also part of this Certification.

If you require further assistance, please contact Catherine Woody, the staff person most knowledgeable on the subject, at (916) 341-57835 (CWoody@waterboards.ca.gov). You may also contact Bill Orme, Chief of the 401 Certification and Wetlands Protection Unit, at (916) 341-5464 (borme@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Howard" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas Howard
Executive Director

Enclosures: Water Quality Certification Order
Attachment A: Signatory Requirements
Attachment B: Project Information Sheet
Attachment C: Project Tables
Attachment D: Project Maps

cc: See next page

cc: Mr. Jason A. Brush
Chief, Wetlands Regulatory Office (WTR8)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ms. Jane Hicks
Chief, Regulatory Branch
San Francisco District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1455 Market Street, 16th floor
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Mr. Carl Wilcox
Regional Manager
Department of Fish and Game
7329 Silverado Trail
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Mr. Matt St. John
Executive Officer
North Coast Regional Water Quality
Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
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Mr. Bruce Wolfe
Executive Officer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality
Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
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