

Appendix C: Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Clean Water Act 401 certification



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 11, 2017

Rain Emerson
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
1234 "N" Street
Fresno, CA 93721
E-mail: remerson@usbr.gov

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Mr. Emerson:

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR THE HILTON CREEK GRAVEL AUGMENTATION PROJECT, WQID NUMBER 34217WQ42, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

On December 6, 2017, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) received the Bureau of Reclamation's Notice of Intent to enroll the Hilton Creek Gravel Augmentation Project (Project) under the *Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects*.

The Project will discharge to Hilton Creek. Central Coast Water Board staff understands that the Project includes the following activities:

1. Placement of gravel at four or five locations within the vicinity of the creek thalweg, just upstream of the tailwater control of pools where steelhead spawning has historically been observed. Approximately 30 five-gallon buckets of gravel will be placed the first year and 15 five-gallon buckets of gravel the second year.

We have determined that the Project meets the eligibility requirements for the *Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects*. Your Notice of Intent demonstrates: (1) the Project is categorically exempt under Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Division 6, Chapter 3, *Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)*, Article 19, section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects;" (2) the Project size will not exceed five acres or 500 linear feet of stream bank or coastline; (3) the Project is not a compensatory mitigation project; (4) the Project's primary purpose is habitat restoration; and (4) the construction period will not exceed five years.

We are therefore issuing this Notice of Applicability authorizing the Project under the *Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects*.

DR. JEAN-PIERRE WOLFF, CHAIR | JOHN M. ROBERTSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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In addition to Standard and Special Conditions, the *Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects* requires the following monitoring and reporting:

1. The Permittee must implement the monitoring program documented in the Monitoring Plan and provide Monitoring Reports annually on May 31 to the Central Coast Water Board until implementation of the Monitoring Plan is complete. The Monitoring Reports must document status of performance standards and project goals. Submit Monitoring Reports to RB3_401Reporting@waterboards.ca.gov. Each Monitoring Report must include:
 - a. A summary of findings.
 - b. Identification and discussion of problems with achieving performance standards.
 - c. Proposed corrective measures, to be approved by the Central Coast Water Board.
 - d. Monitoring data.

If you have questions please contact **Mark Cassady** at (805) 549-3689 or via email at Mark.Cassady@waterboards.ca.gov, or **Phil Hammer** at (805) 549-3882. Please mention the above application number in all future correspondence pertaining to this project.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Phillip Hammer
Date: 2017.12.11 14:17:13 -08'00'

for
John M. Robertson
Executive Officer

cc:

Timothy Robinson
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