

2020080456

**Notice of Exemption****Appendix E**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Sacramento

**From:** (Public Agency): Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

Project Title: Large Wood Augmentation, Phase II, in North Coast Region - Grant #D1813110

Project Applicant: Trout Unlimited

Project Location - Specific:

(1) Redwood Creek (SF Eel River). (2) Hayshed Gulch (Noyo River). (3) Mill Creek (Navarro River).

Project Location - City: Unincorporated Areas Project Location - County: Mendocino County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will restore instream habitat complexity and cover for salmon and trout species by introducing large woody material to several Mendocino coastal watersheds.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board, DFA

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Anna Halligan, Trout Unlimited

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_


Reasons why project is exempt:

The Projects have been permitted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board through the State Water Board's General 401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order). Projects that meet the eligibility requirements of the General 401 Order are considered categorically exempted from CEQA pursuant to Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Gil Falcone Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 576-2830

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a **Notice of Exemption** been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature:  Date: 8/24/2020 Title: Assistant Deputy Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

*Governor's Office of Planning & Research*

**AUG 26 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 29, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Mackey  
Trout Unlimited  
PO Box 1966  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
[elizabeth.mackey@tu.org](mailto:elizabeth.mackey@tu.org)

Dear Ms. Mackey:

Subject: Notice of Applicability (NOA) for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB12006GN

File: Redwood Creek (SF Eel River) Large Wood Augmentation Project, WDID No. 1B20145WNME, ECM PIN No. CW-868121

On July 1, 2020, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order) for the Redwood Creek (SF Eel River) Large Wood Augmentation Project (Project). The Project is located along approximately 1.5 mile stretch of Redwood Creek just above the confluence with the South Fork Eel River, 3 miles northwest of the town of Branscomb, Mendocino County within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit 111.33. Coordinates of the Project Site are latitude 39.67102 ° N, and longitude 123.66773 ° W.

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 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

The Project is funded through the State Water Resources Control Board Grant Agreement D1813113 pursuant to the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund - Public Resources Code Sections 4629, et seq Resolution No. 2018-0042.

**Project Purpose and Description:**

The purpose of the Project is to install approximately 85 pieces of wood at approximately 42 sites along 1.5 miles of Redwood Creek (South Fork Eel River). The purpose of this Project is to enhance instream habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. This Project is necessary due to decades of forest legacy impacts that left riparian stands ill-equipped for natural instream wood recruitment as well as stream clearing efforts in the 1960s-1980s that left the watershed lacking in adequate habitat complexity and geomorphic function. Large wood will be added to the stream channel utilizing accelerated recruitment techniques combined with more traditional anchoring methods. Additional woven jam structures will also be added with heavy equipment. A total of 42 structures and 85 pieces of large wood will be installed using the accelerated recruitment approach. The accelerated recruitment approach typically avoids engineered, permanently anchored structures. Instead, wood is either unanchored or uses non-traditional anchoring methods. However, certain circumstances, such as this project, may also require the use of anchoring with hardware. Instream structure is provided by falling standing timber into or near the creek following on-site review and approval by CDFW representatives, LRFC foresters, and biologists. Additionally, structure may be provided by placing appropriately sized salvaged or stockpiled logs and rootwads using a rubber-tired tractor. Some Project logs are intentionally wedged into existing riparian vegetation with the intent to minimize downstream movement while providing a collection point for additional project wood or pre-existing instream wood. These logs are referred to as "fixed logs". Other Project logs are designed to be transported downstream and re-positioned by winter flows. These logs are referred to as "transport logs". The types of logs used and the spacing between project sites are designed to reflect natural stream dynamics and help in achieving restoration of the stream's original heterogeneous nature. Trees will primarily be introduced into the stream channel via rubber-tired equipment. Trees will be procured by felling via chainsaw. Structure placement will also at times require the use of a rubber-tired skidder and cable winching techniques to retrieve trees from upslope locations and to facilitate appropriate instream structure orientation.

The Project reach in this proposal currently has only 1.1 key pieces of LWD per 100 meters and 32 pieces of wood per mile. These values are well below the desirable wood targets outlined in the NOAA Recovery Plan. Data from recent watershed assessments also indicate that the Redwood Creek watershed has poor residual pool depths and shelter ratings (CDFW2007 and PWA 2015). Despite low habitat values, this watershed supports robust runs of coho salmon and steelhead and has a high potential for species recovery. This Project will improve spawning and rearing requirements for salmonids and will address riparian dysfunction, excessive sedimentation, and water quality impairment. Large wood structures will help to scour pools, sort spawning gravels, and decrease water velocities. The installation of large wood features will also increase the availability of over-summer and over-winter juvenile rearing habitats. This Project should produce measurable results following one winter of average channel forming flows. It is also anticipated that the habitat created through the placement of large wood will be readily utilized by both target fish species.

The NOI shall be implemented in accordance with the *Materials and Methods / Design Criteria*. The NOI includes equipment and spill prevention Best Management Practices for project activities to prevent and address the discharge of pollutants into waters during construction. The applicant has included species and general protection measures in the NOI and supplemental information to avoid and minimize impacts to rare, threatened, endangered and aquatic species, riparian vegetation, prevent the discharge of sediment and control erosion at the site.

Project totals of temporarily impacted area approximate 2.29 acres of riparian area and 85 linear feet of waters of the state, including river channel. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials.

The Project is expected to be implemented during the months of June through October 2020 or 2021 and is expected to take approximately 15 days.

**Receiving Water:** Redwood Creek, Eel River Hydrologic Unit 111.33

**Filled / Excavated Area:** Permanent Area Impacted: None  
Temporary Area Impacted: 2.29 acres of riparian area

**Total Linear Impacts:** Length Permanently Impacted: None  
Length Temporarily Impacted: 85 Linear feet  
of channel

**Latitude/Longitude:** 39.67102 ° N / 123.66773 ° W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Order. Upon enrollment of this project under the General 401 Order, Trout Unlimited may seek authorization through the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act under Fish & G. Code, §§ 1653, including this authorization letter and all applicable materials and submittals to meet California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements.

**Monitoring:**

Please be advised that coverage under this General 401 Order requires that Monitoring Reports be submitted at least annually documenting the achievement of performance standards and project goals. Regional Water Board staff have reviewed and approved the *Monitoring and Reporting Plan* submitted on July 1, 2020, and any subsequent approved revisions. The monitoring plan includes California Department of Fish and Wildlife Level II Habitat Typing assessment and a longitudinal profile survey. Pre- and post-project photographic monitoring and large wood count will be conducted. Reporting shall be submitted in accordance with the approved plan.

**Project Tracking:**



It has been determined through regional, state, and national studies that tracking of mitigation and restoration projects must be improved to better assess their performance. In addition, to effectively carry out the state's Wetlands Conservation Policy of no net loss to wetlands, the state needs to closely track both aquatic habitat losses and the success of mitigation and restoration projects. Therefore, this certification requires the Applicant to upload impact totals and mitigation measures to a web-based project tracking system called "EcoAtlas" using the "Project Tracker" form, which can be found here: <http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org>. Instructions and how to request a user name and password are on the Project Tracker website. More information about EcoAtlas is available at: [www.ecoatlas.org](http://www.ecoatlas.org).

Within 30 days of issuance of this NOA, the Applicant shall upload Project information to EcoAtlas using the "Project Tracker" form found at the following website: <http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org/>. Required information includes a Project map that may either be uploaded to EcoAtlas or created within EcoAtlas by using the "draw polygon" tool. Required monitoring reports shall be uploaded to EcoAtlas as well as submitted electronically to the Regional Water Board. To upload monitoring reports into EcoAtlas, use the "Files and Links" tab found on your project's EcoAtlas page.

**Notice of Completion:**

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board by the applicant no later than 30 days after the project has been completed. A complete NOC includes as a minimum: photographs with a descriptive title, the date the photograph was taken, the name of the photographic site, the WDID number and ECM PIN number indicated above and success criteria for the project. The NOC shall demonstrate that the Project has been carried out in accordance with the Project description as provided in the applicants NOI. Please include the project name, WDID number and ECM PIN number with all future inquiries and document submittals. Document submittals to the Regional Water Board shall be made electronically to: [NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov).

This authorization of dredge and fill activities expires on July 29, 2025. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this NOA and General 401 Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Please call Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
On Behalf Of



Digitally signed by Jonathan  
Warmerdam

Date: 2020.07.29 12:48:45 -07'00'

Water Boards

Matthias St. John

Executive Officer

200729\_GBF\_RedwoodCrkSFEelLWD\_NOA

Weblink: The State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order For Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN can be found here:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrpcert032713.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrpcert032713.pdf)

cc: State Water Resources Control Board, [Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Jennifer Siu, EPA Region 9, [Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov)  
Kasey Sirkin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, [L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil](mailto:L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil)  
Scott Monday, CDFW, [Scott.Monday@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Monday@wildlife.ca.gov)  
Lyme Redwood Forest Company, [zjones@lymeredwood.com](mailto:zjones@lymeredwood.com)

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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 29, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Mackey  
Trout Unlimited  
PO Box 1966  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
[elizabeth.mackey@tu.org](mailto:elizabeth.mackey@tu.org)

Dear Ms. Mackey:

Subject: Notice of Applicability (NOA) for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB12006GN

File: Hayshed Gulch Large Wood Augmentation Project, WDID No. 1B20144WNME, ECM PIN No. CW-868119

On July 1, 2020, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order) for the Hayshed Gulch Large Wood Augmentation Project (Project). The Project is located approximately 2.25 miles east of Fort Bragg, at Hayshed Gulch a tributary to the Noyo River, Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit 113.20. Coordinates of the Project Site are latitude 39.42682 ° N, and longitude 123.73887 ° W.

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 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

The Project is funded through the State Water Resources Control Board Grant Agreement D1813113 pursuant to the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund - Public Resources Code Sections 4629, et seq Resolution No. 2018-0042.

### Project Purpose and Description:

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VALERIE L. QUINTO, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast)

The purpose of the Project is to install approximately 63 pieces of wood at approximately 30 sites along 0.9 miles of Hayshed Gulch. The Project will increase stream complexity, pool frequency, pool depth, high-flow refugia, and over-summer rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Instream structure will be provided by falling existing standing timber on-site into or near the creek and placing instream with rubber-tired equipment (skidder; no backhoe required). No tracked heavy equipment is required to complete this Project. Additional structure may be provided by using equipment to place appropriately-sized salvaged or stockpiled logs and rootwads within the channel. Most Project logs are intentionally wedged into existing riparian vegetation with the intent to minimize downstream movement while providing a collection point for additional Project wood or pre-existing instream wood. Additional small woody debris (SWD) or medium woody debris (MWD) is also placed by hand or with equipment to increase the complexity of individual structures and encourage retention of additional instream debris. The Project area maintains a mature conifer riparian zone that is suitable for direct falling, and existing access roads adjacent to the Project reach is conducive to equipment work with minimal impact to the channel. This reach also contains many existing spanner logs across the stream channel that can be strategically placed with minimal equipment effort. Some trees may also be sourced from upslope locations near the Project area for channel placement.

The NOI shall be implemented in accordance with the *Materials and Methods / Design Criteria*. The NOI includes equipment and spill prevention Best Management Practices for Project activities to prevent and address the discharge of pollutants into waters during construction. The applicant has included species and general protection measures in the NOI and supplemental information to avoid and minimize impacts to rare, threatened, endangered and aquatic species, riparian vegetation, prevent the discharge of sediment and control erosion at the site.

Project totals of temporarily impacted area approximate 1.29 acres of riparian area and 94.5 linear feet of waters of the state, including river channel. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials.

The Project is expected to be implemented during the months of June through October 2020 or 2021 and is expected to take approximately 10 days.

**Receiving Water:** Hayshed Gulch, Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit 113.20

**Filled / Excavated Area:** Permanent Area Impacted: None  
Temporary Area Impacted: 1.29 acres of riparian area

**Total Linear Impacts:** Length Permanently Impacted: None  
Length Temporarily Impacted: 94.5 Linear feet  
of gulch channel

**Latitude/Longitude:** 39.42682 ° N / 123.73887 ° W



Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Order. Upon enrollment of this Project under the General 401 Order, Trout Unlimited may seek authorization through the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act under Fish & G. Code, §§ 1653, including this authorization letter and all applicable materials and submittals to meet California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements.

**Monitoring:**

Please be advised that coverage under this General 401 Order requires that Monitoring Reports be submitted at least annually documenting the achievement of performance standards and Project goals. Regional Water Board staff have reviewed and approved the Monitoring and Reporting Plan submitted on July 1, 2020, and any subsequent approved revisions. The monitoring plan includes California Department of Fish and Wildlife Level II Habitat Typing assessment and a longitudinal profile survey. Pre- and post-project photographic monitoring and large wood count will be conducted. Reporting shall be submitted in accordance with the approved plan.

**Project Tracking:**

It has been determined through regional, state, and national studies that tracking of mitigation and restoration projects must be improved to better assess their performance. In addition, to effectively carry out the state's Wetlands Conservation Policy of no net loss to wetlands, the state needs to closely track both aquatic habitat losses and the success of mitigation and restoration projects. Therefore, this certification requires the Applicant to upload impact totals and mitigation measures to a web-based project tracking system called "EcoAtlas" using the "Project Tracker" form, which can be found here: <http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org>. Instructions and how to request a user name and password are on the Project Tracker website. More information about EcoAtlas is available at: [www.ecoatlas.org](http://www.ecoatlas.org).

Within 30 days of issuance of this NOA, the Applicant shall upload Project information to EcoAtlas using the "Project Tracker" form found at the following website: <http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org/>. Required information includes a Project map that may either be uploaded to EcoAtlas or created within EcoAtlas by using the "draw polygon" tool. Required monitoring reports shall be uploaded to EcoAtlas as well as submitted electronically to the Regional Water Board. To upload monitoring reports into EcoAtlas, use the "Files and Links" tab found on your project's EcoAtlas page.

**Notice of Completion:**

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board by the applicant no later than 30 days after the project has been completed. A complete NOC includes as a minimum: photographs with a descriptive title, the date the photograph was taken, the name of the photographic site, the WDID number and ECM PIN number indicated above and success criteria for the project. The NOC shall demonstrate that the Project has been carried out in accordance with the Project description as provided in

the applicants NOI. Please include the project name, WDID number and ECM PIN number with all future inquiries and document submittals. Document submittals to the Regional Water Board shall be made electronically to: [NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov).

This authorization of dredge and fill activities expires on July 29, 2025. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this NOA and General 401 Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Please call Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
On Behalf Of

Digitally signed by Jonathan  
Warmerdam

Date: 2020.07.29 12:47:34

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Water Boards

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

200729\_GBF\_HayshedGulchLWD\_NOA

Weblink: The State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order For Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN can be found here:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrpcert032713.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrpcert032713.pdf)

cc: State Water Resources Control Board, [Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Jennifer Siu, EPA Region 9, [Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov)  
Kasey Sirkin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, [L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil](mailto:L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil)  
Scott Monday, CDFW, [Scott.Monday@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Monday@wildlife.ca.gov)  
Lyme Redwood Forest Company, [zjones@lymeredwood.com](mailto:zjones@lymeredwood.com)



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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 29, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Mackey  
Trout Unlimited  
PO Box 1966  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
[elizabeth.mackey@tu.org](mailto:elizabeth.mackey@tu.org)

Dear Ms. Mackey:

Subject: Notice of Applicability (NOA) for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB12006GN

File: Mill Creek (Navarro River) Large Wood Augmentation Project, WDID No. 1B20129WNME, ECM PIN No. CW-867867

On July 1, 2020, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order) for the Mill Creek (Navarro river) Large Wood Augmentation Project (Project). The Project is located along approximately 1.15 mile stretch of Mill Creek just above the confluence with the Navarro River, 4.5 miles north of the town of Philo. Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit 113.50. Coordinates of the Project Site are latitude 39.10066 ° N, and longitude 123.5032 ° W.

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 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

The Project is funded through the State Water Resources Control Board Grant Agreement D1813113 pursuant to the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund - Public Resources Code Sections 4629, et seq Resolution No. 2018-0042.

### Project Purpose and Description:

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VALERIE L. QUINTO, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast)



The purpose of the Project is to install approximately 27 pieces of wood at approximately 24 sites along 1.15 miles of Mill Creek (Navarro River). This Project will begin construction in August-October 2020 and may extend through August-October 2021. All tree felling will occur through use of a chainsaw. Structure placement will also require the use of a rubber-tired skidder and/or backhoe, and cable winching techniques to retrieve riparian or upslope trees and to facilitate appropriate instream LWM orientation. The placement of large wood will provide complex refugia for juvenile salmonids and help reduce density-dependent competition during the low flow season. The objectives of the Project are to increase and improve the quality and quantity of pool habitats within Mill Creek. This will effectively increase stream complexity and shelter values while simultaneously improving pool frequency and depth for rearing juvenile salmonids. Large wood that is within the active stream channel will provide velocity refugia for fish during peak winter flows, decrease average water velocities, and sort spawning gravels. It is anticipated that the habitat created through the placement of this large wood material will be readily utilized by fish following a season of scouring flows. This effort will help to maintain the geographic distribution of Coho Salmon in a system with historically strong populations and identified biological refugia.

Mill Creek supports populations of coho salmon and steelhead trout. Federal and state recovery plans acknowledge that large wood enhances valuable instream habitat for both species through the transportation and sorting of excess sediments and, most importantly, by forming pool habitats associated with bed scour (NMFS 2012, CDFW 2004). Data collected within the last five years show a lack of adequate sediment sorting and habitat complexity in Mill Creek (CDFW 2013). Although woody material densities are low, juvenile coho and steelhead trout are consistently present during the spring and summer and have been detected in recent years. Data from the CDFW stream habitat report for Mill Creek in 2012 showed extremely low overall mean shelter values for riffle, pool, and flatwater habitats (0, 8, and 1 respectively). These values are considered to be extremely poor, as mean shelter rating in pools of at least 100 is considered desirable. The CDFW report also indicates that Mill Creek provides consistently cold-water temperatures year-round that are considered ideal for salmonid rearing (44 to 53 degrees F) and above-average vegetation cover along the stream banks. In summation, this CDFW stream habitat report recommends that Mill Creek should be managed as an anadromous, natural production stream and suggests adding large wood to the system to increase habitat complexity and shelter values (2013). Additionally, the NOAA CCC Coho Recovery Plan lists habitat complexity and large wood frequency for rearing juveniles in the Navarro River watershed as poor. The Navarro River watershed supports a key independent population of endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout. Through the installation of large wood, we hope to increase the quality of rearing and spawning habitats for both species in Mill Creek.

The NOI shall be implemented in accordance with the *Materials and Methods / Design Criteria*. The NOI includes equipment and spill prevention Best Management Practices for Project activities to prevent and address the discharge of pollutants into waters during construction. The applicant has included species and general protection



measures in the NOI and supplemental information to avoid and minimize impacts to rare, threatened, endangered and aquatic species, riparian vegetation, prevent the discharge of sediment and control erosion at the site.

Project totals of temporarily impacted area approximate 2.52 acres of riparian area and 54 linear feet of waters of the state, including river channel. The Project shall be constructed and maintained as described within application materials.

The Project is expected to be implemented during the months of June through October 2020 or 2021 and is expected to take approximately 12 days.

**Receiving Water:** Mill Creek, Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit 113.50

**Filled / Excavated Area:** Permanent Area Impacted: None  
Temporary Area Impacted: 2.52 acres of riparian area

**Total Linear Impacts:** Length Permanently Impacted: None  
Length Temporarily Impacted: 54 Linear feet  
of channel

**Latitude/Longitude:** 39.10066 ° N / 123.5032 ° W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Order. Upon enrollment of this Project under the General 401 Order, Trout Unlimited may seek authorization through the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act under Fish & G. Code, §§ 1653, including this authorization letter and all applicable materials and submittals to meet California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements.

**Monitoring:**

Please be advised that coverage under this General 401 Order requires that Monitoring Reports be submitted at least annually documenting the achievement of performance standards and Project goals. Regional Water Board staff have reviewed and approved the *Monitoring and Reporting Plan* submitted on July 1, 2020, and any subsequent approved revisions. The monitoring plan includes California Department of Fish and Wildlife Level II Habitat Typing assessment and a longitudinal profile survey. Pre- and post-project photographic monitoring and large wood count will be conducted. Reporting shall be submitted in accordance with the approved plan.

**Project Tracking:**

It has been determined through regional, state, and national studies that tracking of mitigation and restoration projects must be improved to better assess their performance. In addition, to effectively carry out the state's Wetlands Conservation Policy of no net loss to wetlands, the state needs to closely track both aquatic habitat losses and the success of mitigation and restoration projects. Therefore, this certification requires the

Applicant to upload impact totals and mitigation measures to a web-based project tracking system called "EcoAtlas" using the "Project Tracker" form, which can be found here: <http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org>. Instructions and how to request a user name and password are on the Project Tracker website. More information about EcoAtlas is available at: [www.ecoatlas.org](http://www.ecoatlas.org).

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**Notice of Completion:**

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This authorization of dredge and fill activities expires on July 29, 2025. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this NOA and General 401 Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Please call Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
On Behalf Of



Digitally signed by Jonathan  
Warmerdam

Date: 2020.07.29 12:44:14 -07'00'

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Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

200729\_GBF\_MillCrkNavarroLWD\_NOA

Weblink: The State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order For Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN can be found here:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrpcert032713.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/shrpcert032713.pdf)

cc: State Water Resources Control Board, [Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Jennifer Siu, EPA Region 9, [Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov)  
Kasey Sirkin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, [L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil](mailto:L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil)  
Scott Monday, CDFW, [Scott.Monday@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Monday@wildlife.ca.gov)  
Bob Gibson, Roederer Estate, [bgibson@roedererestate.net](mailto:bgibson@roedererestate.net)  
Chris Bing & Jan Wax, [janwax@yahoo.com](mailto:janwax@yahoo.com)  
Andres Favela, [andresfavela5068@gmail.com](mailto:andresfavela5068@gmail.com)