
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 22, 2020

Ryan Fogerty
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1829 South Oregon Street
Yreka, CA 96097
Ryan_Fogerty@fws.gov

Dear Ryan Fogerty:

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: Fort Goff Fish Passage and Diversion Improvement Project
WDID No. 1A20088WNSI; CW-866962

This letter is to certify coverage of the Fort Goff Fish Passage and Diversion Improvement Project (Project) under the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order); Order No. SB12006GN. The purpose of the Project is to upgrade an existing point of diversion by installing a fish screen and addressing a fish passage barrier on Fort Goff Creek.

Background

On May 12, 2020, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) from Ryan Fogerty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Applicant) to comply with the terms of, and obtain Project coverage under, the General 401 Order.

Project Location

The Project is located approximately five miles west of Seiad Valley along California Highway 96. The project site is located 0.7 miles above the mouth of Fort Goff Creek, within the Middle Klamath River Hydrologic Unit 105.32. The Project sites are located at 41.8723° N, 123.2611° W.

Project Description

The Project will modify the point of diversion to accommodate a lower elevation intake structure with a connection pipeline to the earthen ditch system and will construct a permanent fish-screen with bypass and flow measurement station. Once complete, the

Project will provide all life stages of salmonids volitional access to rearing and spawning habitat beyond river-mile 0.7 of Fort Goff Creek.

Water Diversion

Using heavy equipment and a non-explosive expansive demolition agent, a water diversion channel will be established through approximately 20 to 60 linear feet of bedrock that is currently deflecting flow away from the point of diversion. The constructed channel will be set to an elevation that allows flow to access the conveyance system through the base flow period. This approach is intended to eliminate the need for a seasonal rock push-up dam, thereby limiting seasonal streambed alteration and improving fish passage. During construction, streamflow will be diverted around the work area to ensure that heavy equipment does not impact water quality. The Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SRCD) will coordinate with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding the water diversion procedure and associated fish relocation.

Intake Structure and Conveyance System

Following completion of the constructed channel, a new water intake system will be installed on the river-right bank. The intake system will consist of a fabricated steel sliding gate structure mounted to the bedrock and set at an elevation that allows for unimpeded, preferential flow. The intake structure will have a spillway to send surplus flow and sediment back to the main channel. A 12-inch steel fitting will connect the intake structure to a smooth-walled 12-inch conveyance pipe. This pipe will run for approximately 165 feet to the earthen ditch system, which will run approximately 80 additional feet to the fish-screen. Approximately eight cubic yards of soil may be excavated and re-used used for fill during installation, as needed. The conveyance pipe will be mounted to bedrock and other large rock features and will angle away from the main channel. Finally, there will be a slide-gate on the down-ditch end of the pipe that will restrict wildlife from entering during periods of non-use. Installation of the intake and pipeline will take place within the footprint of the preexisting diversion system and will result in no new permanent impacts.

Fish-Screen and Flow Bypass Return

The fish screen and bypass return system are located approximately 250 feet down-ditch from the intake. Multiple sites were considered and analyzed to identify the optimal location for the fish-screen and flow bypass infrastructure. The limiting factors impacting site selection include the abrupt drop in surface water elevation between the stream and conveyance system, large trees, berms and levees, excavation courses, material size, high-water inundation, and the distance, angle, and location of the bypass return pipe. The selected fish screen site and flow bypass route has been reviewed and approved by NMFS and CDFW staff.

The fish screen structure will be sized for a maximum diversion of 1.0 cubic feet per second (cfs) plus 0.5 cfs of bypass flow. The drum style screen will be powered by a

paddlewheel driven by the hydraulic current of the diverted water. The structure will have a three-foot entrance that narrows down to one foot as flow passes by the paddlewheel. This reduction in the frame will power the paddlewheel and rotate the 24-inch drum, keeping it free from debris and organic material. A junction box leading to the bypass pipe will be adjacent to the frame and upstream from the screen. This outlet will be set perpendicular to the conveyance system and contain a slide gate to control the required 0.5 cfs for proper bypass function. An 18-inch PVC pipe will be fitted to the junction and extend approximately 55 feet to an existing alcove. The fish screen facility has been engineered to meet federal and state standards, including those related to approach velocities, sweeping velocities, exposure time criteria and flow/depth/velocity through the bypass pipe. When streamflow is being diverted there will be sufficient water levels moving through the fish screen and bypass to ensure that fish can move volitionally to and from the primary stream channel. The installation of the fish screen will result in a disturbance area of approximately 80 square feet. Approximately four cubic yards of soil may be excavated and re-used used for fill as needed for installation. No new roads or travel surfaces will be developed for equipment to access the site, as the diversion system runs along an existing private road. Minor and temporary access points from the road will be developed for installation of the fish screen and bypass pipe.

Flow Measurement Station

A flow measurement station that meets standards for diversion water use reporting will be installed in the earthen ditch system immediately downstream of the fish screen. The station is anticipated to include a pre-cast or cast-in-place concrete measuring box (weir or flume) set an elevation to properly measure all ranges of diverted flow. The station will be equipped with a recording device that will monitor diverted flow at the frequency required by Senate Bill 88. The flow measurement station will be installed in the preexisting conveyance system and will not create any additional disturbance to the landscape.

Project Size

The total Project size is approximately 0.5 acres and 350 linear feet. The Project size does not exceed five acres or 500 linear feet, which is what is allowed for coverage under the General 401 Order and associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption (section 15333).

Project Impacts

The Project will result in temporary impacts to approximately 350 linear feet of waters of the state.

Project Associated Discharge

Approximately five tons of washed rock, a concrete and steel diversion structure, and 400 square feet of silt fencing and plastic sheeting (associated with temporary dewatering activities) will be discharged to waters of the state.

Project Time Frame

Start Date: July 1, 2020

Completion Date: October 15, 2020

Number of Workdays: Approximately 20 days

Agency Permits

The Applicant has applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a 404 Permit and to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Notice of Applicability & Project Determination

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities as described in the NOI are categorically exempt from CEQA review and may proceed under the General 401 Order.

Receiving Water: Fort Goff Creek, within the Middle Klamath River
Hydrologic Unit 105.32

Project Size: Approximately 0.5 acres and 350 linear feet

Project Impacts: Approximately 350 linear feet

Latitude/Longitude: 41.5475° N, 123.3757° W

Expiration Date: **June 22, 2025**

Monitoring and Reporting Schedule

As required in Section B, Item 4, of the General 401 Order, monitoring reports shall be submitted to document the achievement of performance standards and Project goals. A report will be submitted to the Regional Water Board following the completion of each seasonal work period and upon Project completion. This report will include the pre- and post-Project monitoring findings and indicate whether performance standards have been achieved. Each report will include a summary of findings, an identification and discussion of problems with achieving performance standards, any proposed corrective measures as needed (requires Regional Water Board approval), and appropriate monitoring data.

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted by the applicant no later than 30 days after the Project has been completed. A complete NOC includes at a minimum: photographs with a descriptive title, the date each photograph was taken, the name of the photographic site, the WDID 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 applicant's NOI. Please include the Project name and WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals. Document submittals shall be made electronically to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

The State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects SB09016GN can be found at Amended Order, Clean Water Act Section 401 for Small Habitat Restoration Projects:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/water_quality_certification/#small_habitat

Please call Jake Shannon at (707) 576-2673 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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