
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 1, 2020

In the Matter of Water Quality Certification for the Drake Road Russian Riverbank Stabilization and Revegetation Project

APPLICANT: Laurence Jang and Kristin and Doug Allison
RECEIVING WATER: Russian River
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Russian River 114.11
COUNTY: Sonoma
FILE NAME: Drake Road Russian Riverbank Stabilization and Revegetation
Project; ECM PIN CW-868375; WDID 1B20156WNSO

FINDINGS BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On August 7, 2020, Philip Buehler of Bioengineering Associates, on behalf of Laurence Jang and Kristin and Doug Allison (applicant) filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) for activities associated with the Drake Road Russian Riverbank Stabilization and Revegetation Project (project). The application was deemed complete on September 30, 2020. The project is located at 15190 and 15200 Drake Road in Guerneville.
2. **Public Notice:** The project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to reduce the increased water quality impact and public safety issues associated with failure of the riverbank during the next wet season. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the nature of water quality impact and public safety issues associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period.

3. **Receiving Waters:** The proposed project will cause disturbances to the bank of the Lower Russian River (114.11).
4. **Project Description:** The purpose of the project is to stabilize and revegetate the actively eroding streambank that is threatening two homes along the river. The project involves constructing four vegetated rock deflectors along 135 linear feet of bank. Half ton boulders will be keyed into the base of the slope below the summer water level. Mixed sized rock and sand spoils will be installed between the boulders as a growing medium. Rock size will decrease to quarter ton at the top of the slope. Six- to eight-foot long willow poles and branches will be installed at approximately 4 feet on center throughout the boulders. Redwood root wads will be installed at the base of each deflector. Willows and other native shrubs, trees, sedges, and rushes will be installed between the deflectors and along the top of slope.

Equipment will access the site by ramping down between the houses to the riverbank. The excavator will work from above the water's edge. The excavator's stick and bucket with thumb will be in the water to place rock at the toe below the water line. Rock will be delivered from the staging area and down the access ramp to the excavator, which will turn, pick up the rock, and place it in front of the machine into the structure.

The project is upriver of the Johnson Beach dam. The dam is expected to be removed by the time operations begin and the water level will be lower than the summer water level. A floating turbidity curtain will be deployed before work begins and will remain in place for the duration of the project. Turbidity will be monitored visually by the contractor for the duration of the project.

5. **Construction Timing:** Due to the nature of water quality impact and public safety issues, the project is scheduled to begin as soon as possible.
6. **Project Impacts:** The project will permanently impact 135 linear feet or approximately 0.05 acre of the riverbank.
7. **Mitigation for Project Impacts:** The project is considered self-mitigating because it incorporates bioengineering features.
8. **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.

9. **Other Agency Actions:** The Applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit 13, *Bank Stabilization*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant has also submitted a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
10. **CEQA Compliance:** The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15304: Minor Alterations to Land, and files a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.
11. **Antidegradation Policy:** The federal antidegradation policy requires that state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution 68-16, which incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution 68-16 requires that existing high quality waters be maintained unless degradation is justified under specific provisions. The Regional Water Board's Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the state and federal antidegradation policies. This Certification is consistent with applicable federal and state antidegradation policies, as it does not authorize the discharge of increased concentrations of pollutants or increased volumes of treated wastewater, and does not otherwise authorize degradation of the waters affected by this project.
12. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order 2003-0017-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification*, which requires compliance with all conditions of this water quality certification.
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/go_wdr401regulated_projects.pdf

Receiving Water: Lower Russian River 114.11

Permanent Impacts: 135 linear feet or 0.05 acre

Latitude/Longitude: 38.509581° N/ 122.983174° W

Certification Expiration: October 1, 2025

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Drake Road Russian Riverbank Stabilization and Revegetation Project (WDID 1B20156WNSO), as described in the application, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, provided that the applicant complies with the following terms and conditions:

All conditions of this Certification apply to the applicant (and all their employees) and all contractors (and their employees), sub-contractors (and their employees), and any other entity or agency that performs activities or work on the project as related to this water quality certification.

Project-Specific Conditions

1. The applicant shall comply with all project plans and reports including the *Restoration Plan for Temporary Impacts*, *Monitoring Plan and Irrigation Schedule*, *Turbidity Monitoring Plan*, and the engineering plans prepared by Streamline Engineering dated September 23, 2020.
2. Mitigation success shall be subject to the review and acceptance by Regional Water Board staff, and shall not be considered successful until a minimum of five years of monitoring has occurred. Plants shall not be considered successful until irrigation has been terminated for a minimum of two years.
3. Within 30 days of issuance of this Order, 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.

Project Specific Conditions Requiring Reports

4. An as-built report shall be submitted within 30 days after construction and shall include a summary with photos of the turbidity monitoring.
5. The applicant shall report on the success of the project and plantings for a minimum of five years. Reports shall document the success of plantings, structural stability of the streambank, and development of shade and riparian vegetative function. The applicant shall send reports to the Regional Water Board by January 31 annually.
6. Regional Water Board staff shall be notified in writing at least five working days prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities, with details regarding the construction schedule, in order to allow staff to be present onsite during construction, and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the project.

Standard Conditions

7. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3867.
8. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC

license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3855, subdivision (b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

9. The validity of this certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3833, and owed by the applicant.
10. A complete fee of \$1,949, (Category E, Low Impact Discharges), was received for the Project on August 7, 2020. This Certification will be subject to annual billing while the project is constructed and monitored, per the fee schedule that is current at the time of annual billing. Currently the annual fee is \$260; the annual fee is expected to increase every year. The fee calculator may be found at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/docs/dredgefillcalculator.xlsm

Annual fees will be automatically invoiced to the Agent's address. **The applicant must notify the Regional Water Board at project and/or mitigation completion with a final report in order to request to terminate annual billing. Notification should be sent to the staff listed at the bottom of this Order and to Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov.** Regional Water Board staff will verify conditions of the Certification have been met and may request a site visit at that time to confirm status of Project and compliance with this Certification.

11. This certification does not authorize drafting of surface waters. Any drafting of surface waters shall be in compliance with state water rights law and diversion requirements overseen by the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Water Rights.
12. Only wildlife-friendly, 100 percent biodegradable erosion and sediment control products that will not entrap or harm wildlife shall be used. Erosion and sediment control products shall not contain synthetic (e.g., plastic or nylon) netting. Photodegradable synthetic products are not considered biodegradable. The applicant shall request approval from the Regional Water Board if an exception from this requirement is needed for a specific location.
13. Only 100 percent biodegradable geotextiles shall be used for permanent applications within waters of the state unless explicitly approved for specific purposes in the project design.
14. Best management practices (BMPs) shall be implemented according to the submitted application and the conditions in this certification. BMPs for erosion, sediment, and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place at commencement of, during, and after any ground clearing activities or any other project activities that could result in erosion or sediment discharges to surface water. BMPs shall be

immediately available for deployment at all times to prevent discharges to waters of the state.

15. The applicant is prohibited from discharging waste to waters of the state, unless explicitly authorized by this certification. For example, no debris, soil, silt, sand, bar, slash, sawdust, cement or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this Certification, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the state. When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area.
16. The Applicant is liable and responsible for the proper disposal, reuse, and/or recycling of all Project-generated waste in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
17. The applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the project site to document compliance with this certification.
18. Work in flowing or standing surface waters, unless otherwise proposed in the project description and approved by the Regional Water Board, is prohibited.
19. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, lakes, rivers, or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented including stopping work. The Regional Water Board shall be notified promptly and in no case more than 24 hours after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
20. All project activities shall be implemented as described in the submitted certification application package and the findings and conditions of this certification. Subsequent project changes that could significantly impact water quality shall first be submitted to Regional Water Board staff for prior review, consideration, and written concurrence. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the project, it will be considered a violation of this certification, and the applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement actions.
21. Prior to implementing any change to the project that may be a material change as defined in California Water Code section 13260(c) as a proposed change in character, location, or volume of the discharge, the applicant shall obtain prior written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of the material change to the discharge, it will be considered a violation of this certification, and the applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement action(s).
22. The applicant shall provide a copy of this Certification and State Water Board Order 2003-0017-DWQ to any contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility company(ies)

conducting work on the project, and shall require that copies remain in their possession at the work site. The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all work conducted by its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility companies is performed in accordance with the information provided by the applicant to the Regional Water Board.

23. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation as detailed within the application shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the project.
24. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or threatened discharge to any waters of the state including dry portions of the River. At no time shall the applicant or its contractors allow use of any vehicle or equipment that leaks any substance that may impact water quality.
25. The Applicant shall not use leaking vehicles or equipment within state waters or riparian areas. Vehicles and equipment used within state waters shall be checked for leaks at the beginning of each work day.
26. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable state or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Certification. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the Regional Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this Certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Certification, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Certification as appropriate to ensure compliance pursuant to Section 13267 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.
27. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Certification, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted and approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
28. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the applicant, the applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this certification by letter and shall email a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the following email address:
NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

The successor-in-interest shall email the Regional Water Board Executive Officer at: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov to request authorization to discharge dredged or fill material under this certification. The request must contain the following:

- i) Effective date of ownership change;
- ii) Requesting entity's full legal name;
- iii) The state of incorporation, if a corporation;
- iv) The address and phone number of contact person; and
- v) A description of any changes to the Project or confirmation that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the project as described in this certification.

29. Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on:

- i) the discharge being limited to and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicant's Project description, and
- ii) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

30. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on October 1, 2025. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this Certification are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Conditions 4-6 are requirements for information and reports. Any requirement for a report made as a condition to this certification is a formal requirement pursuant to California Water Code section 13267, and failure or refusal to provide, or falsification of such required report is subject to civil liability as described in California Water Code, section 13268.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kaete King of my staff, at (707) 576-2848, or via e-mail at Kaete.King@waterboards.ca.gov.


On Behalf Of



Digitally signed by Jonathan Warmerdam

Date: 2020.10.01 15:34:30 -07'00'

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

Original to: Laurence Jang, 5306 Burnett Place, Davis, CA 95618
and
Kristin and Doug Allison, 291 La Brea Street; Laguna Beach, CA 92651

cc: State Water Resources Control Board, Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov
Jennifer Siu, EPA Wetlands Office, siu.jennifer@epa.gov
Laurence Jang, inkrijang@gmail.com
Kristin and Doug Allison, kallison92651@gmail.com
Roberta Morganstern, ACOE, Roberta.a.morganstern@usace.army.mil
Jodi Charrier, NOAA NMFS, jodi.charrier@noaa.gov
James Hansen, CDFW, James.Hansen@Wildlife.ca.gov
Philip Buehler, Bioengineering Associates, pbuehler@bioengineers.com
Eric Austensen, Streamline Engineering, Streamline@sonic.net

