California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Monitoring and Reporting Program
Order No. R1-2013-0059
as modified on January 9, 2014

for
Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
and General Water Quality Certification for the
Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program

Mendocino County

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) is issued pursuant to California Water Code section 13267(b) and is associated with the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program, Order No. R1-2013-0059* (hereinafter refer to as the "Order"). The reason for requiring the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (District) to provide this information, and the evidence supporting this need, can be found in the Order. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has delegated its authority to the Executive Officer to revise, modify, and reissue the MRP. Under the authority of the California Water Code section 13267(b), the District is required to comply with the following:

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Monitoring and reporting are necessary to ensure full implementation and effectiveness of the conservation practices, plus environmental protection and mitigation measures, described in detail in the June 2012 *Mendocino County Resource Conservation District Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Initial Study for the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program* (hereinafter referred to as the "MND"). The Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program (hereinafter referred to as the "PCP") includes a monitoring and reporting program designed to satisfy state and federal regulatory agency requirements.

Monitoring

This MRP includes four types of monitoring requirements for projects that will be conducted by the District through the PCP, including: 1) Implementation, 2) Effectiveness, 3) Photopoint, and 4) Project. Monitoring shall be conducted at a minimum level for all projects and activities as described below. The minimal level of monitoring includes checklists for implementation of on-the-ground prescriptions to protect water quality, environmental protection and mitigation measure effectiveness evaluations for recent projects, and targeted inspections of conservation and restoration projects during storms.

1. ***Implementation Monitoring*** – Assess whether the environmental protection and mitigation measures detailed in the MND for each conservation and restoration

project have been fully and properly implemented according to the original project design. Assessment is usually carried out via visual observation of the completed project.

Implementation monitoring shall be conducted for all projects and will be the primary method for early detection of potential water-quality problems that may occur after project initiation. Implementation monitoring will be performed following ground-disturbing activities, prior to the beginning of the winter period following project initiation, and at the completion of the project. It must be completed early enough to allow corrective action to be taken, if needed, prior to the release of contractors or the onset of the first winter period.

2. ***Effectiveness Monitoring*** – Assess whether each of the implemented environmental protection and mitigation measures detailed in the MND are adequately protective of water quality. Effectiveness monitoring may be as simple as conducting a visual inspection of the project site and adjacent area. Effectiveness monitoring is typically performed after an environmental protection and mitigation measure has gone through one year or one winter period to evaluate project function during winter rain events. Effectiveness monitoring shall be conducted after June 15 after the first winter period following environmental protection and mitigation measures were installed.

3. ***Photopoint Monitoring*** – Taking a series of photographs over time, from the same point and orientation. This type of monitoring is well-suited for projects that include erosion and sediment control, streambank stabilization, fish migration barrier removal, and riparian planting.

4. ***Project Monitoring*** – Assess the impacts to water from an entire project, its outcomes, and the associated environmental protection and mitigation measures. This is a type of effectiveness monitoring, and may require more detailed measurements, including up-and downstream physical habitat monitoring, vegetation monitoring, biological assessment, and pre-and post-project documentation of instream conditions and/or watershed biological integrity.

Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring shall be done for all projects. The Executive Officer may require that project monitoring and/or photopoint monitoring be done for larger, complex projects to determine project success or potential environmental impacts.

Reporting

Reporting enables the information gathered from implementation and effectiveness to be used by the District to modify environmental protection and mitigation measures, to correct any failures that have or may result in impacts to water quality, and to inform the District and Regional Water Board of project successes or failures.

By March 31 of each year, the District shall submit written notification regarding the status of all projects to permitting and funding agencies in the form of an annual post-construction report. The annual report shall summarize the District's evaluation of project implementation, outcomes of environmental protection and mitigation measures, and the effectiveness of protecting water quality and stream habitat. The intent is to provide a fairly simple process for documentation that can be used internally by the District, submitted to the Regional Water Board, and can be shared with other agencies. Contents of the annual report shall include the following items:

1. List of projects completed or ongoing during the previous calendar year, including start and end dates, and proposed duration of monitoring;
2. Description of each project objective, including conservation benefits, improvements to water quality, and quantification of gains of wetland and riparian areas;
3. Detail regarding total area affected, cut/fill volumes, linear streambank improvements, and instream habitat changes resulting from the project;
4. Discussion of conservation benefits, quantification of gains of wetland and riparian areas;
5. Description of type of monitoring conducted for each project, including specific protocols used;
6. Result of environmental protection and mitigation measure *implementation* and *effectiveness* monitoring, including corrective actions in the event of BMP failure;
7. Suggested changes to environmental protection and mitigation measures to improve water quality protection;
8. Pre- and post- photo documentation of project from the same general location to show before and after site conditions. Photographs shall be labeled, and include a description of the project shown in the image.

The District is required to submit discharge notification in the event of unauthorized, or unintended, significant discharges that may be affecting water quality. The District shall notify the Executive Officer within 48 hours of the discovery of an unauthorized discharge, and provide a brief description of the nature of the discharge, any impacts resulting from the discharge, and remedial actions taken to abate and clean up the discharge. For discharges that cannot be cleaned up and abated with 48 hours of discovery, a written summary report shall be submitted to the Executive Officer within 14 days of the notification of discharge outlining a remediation plan and timeline for corrective actions.

Thirty days prior to expiration of Order No. R1-2013-0059 on November 20, 2018, the MCRCD shall submit a summary report to the Executive Officer detailing PCP accomplishments, lessons learned, and other considerations since the Order was adopted.

Requests for Extensions

Requests for extensions to required time lines within this MRP shall be submitted in writing at least ten (10) working days before the due date. Requests for extension must provide a reason, or reasons, for the request. Approval of any request for an extension of time to comply with required deadlines is subject to approval of the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer. If written approval is not received, it should not be assumed that the due dates are extended indefinitely or have been approved. The District shall be accountable for all due dates set out in this MRP in the absence of written approval from the Executive Officer.

Ordered by: Original Signed By
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Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

Date: January 9, 2014

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