



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

PERMITTEE: Lisa Lurie, Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

PERMIT NO.: SPN-2003-275640S

ISSUING OFFICE: San Francisco District

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate District or Division office of the Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This Regional General Permit (RGP13) will renew the coordination program, authorizing minor fill discharges into waters of the U.S. in association with the implementation of projects by landowners in Santa Cruz County participating in the Santa Cruz Countywide Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program (Program). The RGP was first issued for the Program in June 2007, reissued in 2012, and most recently in August 2016. The Program renewal will continue to cover the implementation and maintenance of a variety of conservation practices over a five-year period within Santa Cruz County, with the option to renew for an additional five years. The coordination program aims to act as a catalyst for high-quality projects which will reduce non-point source pollution and enhance wildlife habitat. The Program is based on a model of coordinated, multi-agency regulatory review that ensures the integrity of agency mandates, but makes permitting more accessible to farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners.

This renewal of RGP13 will authorize the Corps' regulated specific restoration and conservation practices, outlined in Enclosure 1 (Appendix A, RGP13 Table 1), implemented in coordination with the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (RCDSCC), under the terms and conditions developed in coordination with each of the regulatory agencies. RGP13 Table 1 provides a description of the practices and the maximum dimensions allowable for each under the Program. These descriptions and maximum allowable dimensions were refined in coordination with the regulatory agencies issuing approvals for the Program. Under the Program, regulatory agencies enter into programmatic agreements with the RCDSCC to approve these fifteen specific standardized conservation practices that will improve habitat and soil stability. The conservation practices are limited in size, have demonstrated a net environmental benefit, and are usually performed for erosion control or restoration in and around waterways. Landowners agree to follow designs and specifications for conservation work. Follow up and monitoring on each conservation project is done by the RCDSCC.

Under the RGP13 renewal for the Program, the RCDSCC will continue to assist ranchers, growers, land managers, and individual property owners (Cooperators) in implementing one or more of the fifteen conservation practices on private properties in Santa Cruz County according to the terms and conditions established by the resource agencies issuing approvals for the Program. Multiple qualifying projects may be constructed each year. The RCDSCC will continue to assist Cooperators in project design and monitors implementation and maintenance of conservation practices to ensure performance with the conditions of the Regional General Permit and the terms and conditions of other permitting agency approvals. The RCDSCC will continue follow the NRCS' Conservation Planning Process for all projects carried out under the Program. Under the renewed RGP, a Cooperator agrees to work with the RCDSCC, and signs a Cooperator Agreement in which they agree to follow the design and construction specifications provided in the "Project Plans and Specifications" developed in cooperation with the RCDSCC. The Cooperator is then allowed to implement the associated conservation practices without the need to seek separate Corps' authorization. The RCDSCC will ensure that the terms and conditions of the Corps Regional General Permit and the terms and conditions of the other regulatory approvals and agreements from permitting agencies are adhered to for each project implemented under the Program. Enclosure 2 (Appendix B, RGP13 Table 2) provides the description of general environmental protection measures developed in coordination with the regulatory agencies issuing approvals for the Program.

The conservation practices have been categorized in a tiered impact matrix, an approach that was developed with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). The matrix is included as Enclosure 3 (Appendix C) to this permit, and provides a framework of environmental protection measures that increase in protectiveness with the increasing impact or complexity of a project or practice. The tiered approach enables the classification of a proposed project into one of three possible tiers. With increasing impacts, a project will be classified into a higher tier, requiring additional environmental protection measures. Projects with very limited resource impacts (upland projects with no expected impacts to special status species) will be placed in Tier I. Tier I projects will have the fewest requirements for surveys, monitoring and other special conditions. Tier I projects will also have a lower level of documentation, shorter notification period (10 days) and will have one to two notification dates. Work in streams (bed and bank) will automatically place projects in Tier II or higher; the presence of threatened and endangered species (in streams or uplands) and projects that include rock riprap bank protection materials or that propose the removal of large instream barriers will be placed in Tier III.

For each project carried out under the Program Practices, except the Wetland Management Practice, total permanent fill to waterways and wetlands may not exceed 0.5 acre and may not result in permanent fill of more than 0.1 acre of wetland. Projects that fit within the Wetland Management Practice (14) will be excepted from these limits on a case-by-case basis when the Permittee will rehabilitate or re-establish functions that will be equal to, or exceeding, the functions of the impacted wetland area within all areas of wetland impacts by the end of the monitoring period, and as described in the proposed project's mitigation, monitoring, and reporting plan. Projects proposed under the Wetland Management Practice will be designed to improve wetland function, including the function of providing improved habitat for wetland species.

If potential wetlands are identified in the project areas where individual projects will be implemented under the Program, wetland delineations will be performed to assist in avoiding impacts to wetlands. The range of fill material may include, non-erodible earth, aggregate (gravel, clay, silt, sand), logs, root wads, timber, rock, and mortar or concrete in limited, discrete locations as energy dissipaters and grade stabilization structures. No project will be initiated by the RCD that results in a net loss in the quality, quantity and/or permanence of wetland acreage and values in Santa Cruz County watersheds.

Not all projects carried out under the Program will require Corps authorization. This RGP will only authorize those projects that are regulated by the Corps.

PROJECT LOCATION: Santa Cruz County, California

PERMIT CONDITIONS:

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on November 1, 2027. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity, or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is

eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. For your convenience, a copy of the water quality certification or waiver is attached. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit.
5. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.
6. You understand and agree that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation or other alteration of the structure or work authorized herein, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, you will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. To remain exempt from the prohibitions of Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act, the non-discretionary Terms and Conditions for incidental take of federally-listed Species shall be fully implemented as stipulated in the Biological Opinions titled “Reinitiation of Formal Consultation on the Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program, Santa Cruz County, California” (pages 10-11), dated December 1, 2021, and titled “Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for Renewal of Regional General Permit 13 for the Santa Cruz Countywide Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program (Corps File No. 2003-275640)”, dated May 5, 2022 (enclosures 4 and 5). Project authorization under the NWP is conditional upon compliance with the mandatory terms and conditions associated with incidental take. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions for incidental take, where a take of a federally-listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take and non-compliance with the NWP authorization for your project. The USFWS and NMFS are, however, the authoritative federal agencies for determining compliance with the incidental take statement and for initiating appropriate enforcement actions or penalties under the Endangered Species Act.
2. The RCDSCC shall notify the Corps annually each spring of that year’s proposed projects to allow review and approval prior to project construction. The annual report shall list participating landowners, describe each project purpose, area affected, natural biological enhancements, and amount of yardage, cut and slope of the work. It shall list conservation benefits and any net gains in wetlands and riparian areas, describe actions taken to avoid adverse effects to listed species, and provide photo documentation of before and after site conditions for each project site. The permitting agencies may provide additional conditions on individual projects. The RCDSCC will then incorporate these additional agency conditions into the conservation plan and engineered design for a project.
3. The Corps will have 45 days from the date of receipt of the annual report to comment on the proposed projects or add additional special conditions if necessary. Construction on projects that have received no comments may not begin until the expiration of the 45 days unless the Corps has provided a “no comment” response prior to the end of the 45-day period.
4. Impacts for each project shall not exceed the maximum limit allowed per restoration practice as detailed in the column titled “Practice Description and Maximum Size of the Practice Installed” in Appendix A, RGP13, Table 1.
5. With the exception of Wetland Management Conservation Practice, total permanent (fill) impacts to waterways

and wetlands may not exceed more than 0.5 acre and may not result in (permanent) fill of more than 0.1 acre of wetland, on each project site.

6. The “Environmental Protection and Mitigation Measures and Conditions for All Projects” as listed in Appendix B, RGP13 Table 2 shall be followed for the appropriate practices installed under the Regional General Permit.
7. The RCDSCC will protect cultural resources to the fullest extent possible. If, during the course of installing a conservation practice, the risk of affecting cultural resources increases (e.g., if an unanticipated resource is discovered, if an unevaluated resource will be affected, or if it is determined that cultural properties will be affected in a previously unanticipated manner), the RCDSCC will respond immediately. This will include requesting the landowner to halt actions in areas with potential to affect cultural resources and notify the Corps immediately. If human remains are uncovered, the RCDSCC will follow procedures established by the Native American Heritage Commission. This includes immediate cessation of work in the area and the notification of the County coroner. In such a circumstance, the Corps will inform the RCDSCC when work may resume.
8. Landowners shall agree to monitor the conservation practices, and to allow RCDSCC staff to monitor on-site compliance with all permit requirements, until implementation of practices is complete. Pre-construction and construction monitoring of Permit Coordination Program-sponsored conservation practices will consist of surveys and/or inspections, as needed, to ensure compliance with all permit requirements until implementation of practices is complete.
9. If a landowner and/or land manager does not carry out work in compliance with project design standards and specifications, including the previously agreed upon terms and conditions, the RCDSCC will notify the landowner and/or land manager and work directly with them to resolve the problem. If the landowner and/or land manager still fails to comply, the RCDSCC will notify the landowner and/or land manager that their activities are no longer covered by RGP13, and will advise the landowner and/or land manager of the authorizations and approvals that may be required for the activities from agencies, including the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The landowner and/or land manager will then be responsible for obtaining regulatory review and individual permits from the appropriate regulatory agencies and will be held liable for all violations.
10. The RCDSCC shall require that each project establishes a sufficient number of photo-documentation points to evaluate the progress of the project. For each project, a site map with the photo-documentation points clearly marked will be prepared. Prior to construction, the RCDSCC shall photographically document the condition of the Project site. Following construction, the RCDSCC shall photographically document the immediate post-construction condition of the site. Pre-project photos, site maps with photo-documentation points, and post-construction photos shall be included in the annual Permit Coordination Program report to the Corps.
11. The RCDSCC will report the status of all projects to the permitting agencies in the form of an annual post-construction report, due January 31 of each year of the Permit Coordination Program. The report will list participating landowners, provide a description of each project, and a summary of the surface area affected, the yards of impact (as fill and/or excavation) and the slope of the work site. The report will also include any project that is no longer covered under RGP13 and the reason why it is no longer covered. The report will list conservation benefits and any net gains in wetlands and riparian areas, describe actions taken to avoid adverse effects to listed species, and provide photo documentation of before project and current site conditions.
12. Post-construction monitoring of Permit Coordination Program-sponsored conservation practices will consist of erosion control inspections to determine if the system is still functioning as planned, photo-documentation, and preparation of an annual report to be submitted yearly to the resource agencies, as described below. Photographs shall be taken from staked photo-documentation points before construction and annually thereafter throughout the term of the monitoring program. All construction sites shall be inspected at least twice during the first rainy

season after installation. Each site will also be inspected once at the end of the rainy season for the first 5 years following construction.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:
 - (X) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 403).
 - (X) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344).
 - () Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. Section 1413).

2. Limits of this authorization:
 - a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.
 - b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
 - c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
 - d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

3. Limits of Federal Liability: In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:
 - a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
 - b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
 - c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
 - d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
 - e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

4. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.

5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.
 - b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate. (See Item 4 above.)
 - c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 C.F.R. § 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 C.F.R. §§ 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 C.F.R. § 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

Lisa Lurie
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

6/7/2022

(DATE)

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.

James Mazza
Chief, Regulatory Division

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

(TRANSFEREE)

(DATE)