

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
 VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200
 FAX (415) 904-5400

**Th 17****ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT****FOR THE****OCTOBER 10, 2013 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency

DE MINIMIS WAIVERS+		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
9-13-0781-W Poseidon Water, LLC	Request for a twelve-month extension of the operation of the existing desalination test facility at the Encina Power Plant in Carlsbad using a somewhat smaller than previous versions of the test facility with no more than 80 gallons per minute of power plant water.	Encina Power Station San Diego County
9-13-0796-W Pacific Gas & Electric Co.	Drill two geotechnical investigation boreholes adjacent to the discharge canal and near a public access shoreline trail along the Humboldt Bay Power Plant.	Humboldt Bay Power Plant Humboldt County



NEGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
ND-0213-13 Marine Corps	Modification to previous negative determination Action: Concur, 9/16/2013	Sierra Training Area Camp Pendleton San Diego County
ND-0214-13 Department of the Navy	Shore Infrastructure Modifications Action: Concur, 9/27/2013	Naval Base Point Loma San Diego
ND-0215-13 National Park Service	Wetland Swale Creation near Abbott's Lagoon Action: Concur, 9/19/2013	Point Reyes National Seashore Marin County
ND-0218-13 National Park Service	Limantour Road Culvert Replacement Action: Concur, 9/20/2013	Point Reyes National Seashore Marin County



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**NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT WAIVER – DE MINIMIS**

DATE: October 1, 2013 **PERMIT NO:** 9-13-0781-W

TO: Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

Applicant: Poseidon Water

Background: This waiver would allow operation of a desalination test facility at the Encina Power Station in Carlsbad, San Diego County. Poseidon has operated a similar facility at the site since January 2003 under several one-year temporary waivers previously authorized by the Coastal Commission. This new waiver would allow a similar but somewhat smaller facility to operate until October 31, 2014, when the facility is to be removed and the site restored. The waiver would allow placement and operation of test equipment, connection to and use of the power plant cooling water system, and discharge of treated water to the cooling water system. It would also allow a small amount of the processed water (less than 1%) to be sent to laboratories for testing.

Project Location: Encina Power Station, 4600 Carlsbad Blvd., Carlsbad, San Diego County.

Project Description: The project purpose is to test and compare the effectiveness of various seawater desalination techniques and equipment under different seasonal source water conditions. The facility would use seawater from the Agua Hedionda lagoon after it passes through the power plant's once-through cooling system. Previous configurations of the test facility used up to 200 gallons per minute from the power plant's cooling system, which uses up to several hundred million gallons per day of seawater from the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. The current proposed pilot plant would be somewhat smaller than previous versions and use no more than 80 gallons per minute of power plant water. After processing and testing, the facility would return about 99% of the water to the existing power plant discharge, which is then discharged through a nearshore structure to the Pacific Ocean. Water not returned to the discharge is sent to laboratories for testing.

The facility includes sled-mounted desalination test equipment, a raw water tank, filter tank, pump/instrumentation skid, reverse osmosis equipment, operations office, and storage. The equipment covers less than 1500 square feet, and the tallest equipment is about 20 feet high. The facility would be located on a power plant parking lot and cover fewer than 30 of the plant's 184 parking spaces.

The project has been reviewed and approved by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Board determined that discharges from the proposed project would conform to the discharge limits of the power plant's existing NPDES permit, although it required additional sampling to confirm that the desalination discharge would meet those limits. The project has also been approved by the City of Carlsbad, and is subject to a City building permit, electrical permit, and Fire Marshal approval.


Waiver Rationale: For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with the policies of Chapter Three of the Coastal Act:

- The project is not expected to alter the existing water quality in Agua Hedionda or the nearshore discharge area of the Pacific Ocean, as it uses water already being used by the power plant and discharges recombined desalted water and brine back into the power plant's existing discharge at a rate well below 1% of the power plant's expected discharge volumes.
- There is little risk for movement of hazardous material offsite, as the project is located within the power plant boundaries and is subject to the plant's safety, hazardous material, and emergency response plans, as well as Fire Marshal review.
- The project takes place on an existing paved area within an existing industrial site. It does not require vegetation removal and it will have minimal impacts on other natural resources. The project site is surrounded by mature trees that screen the facility from passing motorists on Carlsbad Boulevard, so the project does not adversely affect visual resources.
- The project is not anticipated to limit or alter coastal access. The equipment covers less than 30 of the 184 existing parking spaces within a restricted access area at the power plant. As part of a previous waiver application, the applicant stated that a recent parking survey showed the maximum parking demand at the plant was about 100 spaces, so the project will only take up what is considered excess parking capacity.

Important: This waiver is not valid unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver will be reported to the Commission at the meeting of October 9-11 in San Diego. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

By: 

ALISON J. DETTMER
Deputy Director,
Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division

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**NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT WAIVER – DE MINIMIS**

DATE: October 1, 2013 **PERMIT NO:** 9-13-0796-W

TO: Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

Applicant: Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Project Location: At the Humboldt Bay Power Plant, near King Salmon, Humboldt County.

Background: PG&E is decommissioning its retired Humboldt Bay Power Plant by removing structures and remediating soil and groundwater contamination at the site. As part of its remediation process, PG&E has identified contamination to be removed from parts of the power plant discharge canal, which extends from the retired plant site to Humboldt Bay. PG&E is preparing a CDP application to conduct the necessary remediation at the canal and at other locations at the power plant site, but must first identify subsurface characteristics at and near the canal.

Project Description: PG&E proposes to drill two geotechnical investigation boreholes adjacent to the discharge canal and near a public access shoreline trail located along the power plant's Humboldt Bay boundary. The proposed work is meant to identify the degree of structural integrity in the underlying substrate to help determine which method of excavation is best suited for the site – e.g., whether the excavation needs to be supported by sheetpiles or a coffer dam, to determine the maximum allowable slope, etc.

The boreholes would be located on the landward side of the trail, just outside PG&E's security fence line. Work would involve a drill rig and support truck within two locations of about ten by sixty feet. Boreholes would be drilled to a depth of approximately sixty feet below the ground surface. After drilling is completed, PG&E would close the bores pursuant to requirements of the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health. Work is expected to take up to about a week and would be done during daylight hours only. PG&E would access the project site by temporarily removing a section of its security fencing, which would be replaced at completion of the project.

Waiver Rationale: For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, and it will not conflict with the policies of Chapter Three of the Coastal Act:

- Marine Resources / Water Quality / Wetlands: Although the project is at a facility adjacent to the Humboldt Bay shoreline, it would occur at sufficient distance to not cause any expected water quality effects to those coastal waters. The work is subject to conditions and Best Management Practices of PG&E's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. To further reduce the potential for adverse effects, work will not occur during rain events. The work area is completely outside nearby wetlands and waterbodies.
- Public Access: The work will occur adjacent to an existing public access trail along the Humboldt Bay shoreline; however, the trail will remain open during project activities. During active work, PG&E will have an escort available to ensure the public can safely use the trail and move past the adjacent work area.

Important: This waiver is not valid unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver will be reported to the Commission at the meeting of October 9-11, 2013, in San Diego. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

By: Alison J. Dettmer

ALISON J. DETTMER
Deputy Director
Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Th 17

DATE: October 2, 2013

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director
Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
Mark Delaplaine, Manager, Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal
Consistency Division

RE: Negative Determinations Issued by the Executive Director
[Executive Director decision letters are attached]

PROJECT #:	ND-0213-13
APPLICANT:	Marine Corps
LOCATION:	Sierra Training Area, Camp Pendleton, San Diego Co.
PROJECT:	Modification to previous negative determination
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	9/16/2013

PROJECT #:	ND-0214-13
APPLICANT:	Navy
LOCATION:	Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego
PROJECT:	Shore Infrastructure Modifications
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	9/27/2013

PROJECT #:	ND-0215-13
APPLICANT:	National Park Service
LOCATION:	Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin Co.
PROJECT:	Wetland swale creation, near Abbott's Lagoon
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	9/19/2013

PROJECT #:	ND-0218-13
APPLICANT:	National Park Service
LOCATION:	Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin Co.
PROJECT:	Limantour Rd. Culvert Replacement
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	9/20/2013

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September 16, 2013

D. F. Levi, Head
Conservation Division
Environmental Security
Marine Corps Installations West
Marine Corps Base
Box 555010
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5010

Attn: Kristin Thomas

Re: **ND-0213-13**, U.S. Marine Corps, Modification to ND-039-09, Sierra Training Area,
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, San Diego Co.

Dear D. F. Levi:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination for a modification to a previously-concurred-with negative determination involving Marine Corps training in the Sierra Training Area, northern Camp Pendleton. On December 14, 2010, we concurred with your negative determination for training activities in an area previously leased to agricultural operators, east of San Mateo Creek and north of I-5 on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (ND-039-09). The current negative determination is for the improvement of access to the training area through the re-establishment of an abandoned agricultural road across San Mateo Creek, to provide a secondary access route in the event the more northern access route is inaccessible due to flooding (which occurs frequently during significant rain events).

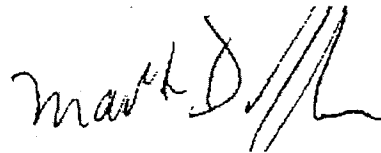
We agree with the Marine Corps that the activity will not affect coastal zone resources. At the same time we strongly urge the Marine Corps to seriously consider the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendation (Conservation Recommendation CR-2, page 42, FWS-MCBCP-09B0226-09F0650), which states:

The Marine Corps should design and build a raised bridge to replace the existing road crossing of San Mateo Creek at the north end of the Sierra TA. A raised bridge will reduce long-term impacts to arroyo toads caused by training vehicle crossing San Mateo Creek at this location and allow improved passage at this site for southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, "steelhead"). The Marine Corps should coordinate with the CFWO and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service during the early phases of planning and design of this bridge to ensure impacts to arroyo toads, steelhead and other federally listed species are minimized. Any future engineered improvements to this crossing should avoid Arizona Crossing type designs.

We believe implementation of this recommendation would benefit both sensitive habitat as well as Marine Corps Training capabilities themselves.

In conclusion, we **agree** with your determination that the proposed project would not adversely affect coastal zone resources, and we therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Mark Delaplaine of the Commission staff at (415) 904-5289 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Lester". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

(for) CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

cc: San Diego District Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Carlsbad Office/Peter Beck)
California State Parks, Orange Coast District
3030 Avenida Del Presidente
San Clemente, CA 92672

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September 27, 2013

T.J. Rogers
Department of the Navy
Attn: Suzanne Smith
Naval Base Point Loma
140 Sylvester Rd.
San Diego, CA 92016

Re: **ND-0214-13**, U.S. Navy, Shore Infrastructure Modifications to Support Testing and Evaluation of the Large Displacement Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (LDUUV) Program, east side of Point Loma, San Diego

Dear T.J. Rogers:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination for modifications to buildings, piers, and other infrastructure to support the Navy's Navy's Testing and Evaluation of the Large Displacement Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (LDUUV) Program. The modifications needed to accommodate the program would be to Pier 160, the Flume Bridge on Front Street, and Buildings 9 and 68. (The operational aspects of the program itself are already authorized through the Navy's Hawaii-SOCAL Training and Testing (HSTT) program, which the Commission has reviewed separately.) The site is just south of the Scripps Pier and north of the the Navy's Fuel Pier, on the east side of Point Loma.

The proposed modifications to Pier 160 include installing launch and recovery lifts and fuel cell recharging equipment to enable recharging of LDUUVs. Up to five 70,000 pound-capacity launch and recovery lifts would be installed, with each lift necessitating eight 16-inch concrete piles (for a total of up to 40 piles for the 5 lifts). The modifications would also include tracks for a mobile boat hoist and four small floating walkways, with 32 additional piles needed (for an overall total of up to 72 16-inch piles. The piles would be installed using jetting and/or a small impact hammer.

The project would also include relatively minor modifications to Building 9, Building 68, the Flume Bridge (including slope modifications to facilitate mobile boat hoist operations), and, temporarily (pending project completion), installing two floating boat docks, or a floating modular barge and a floating boat dock, as well as temporary crane use to raise and lower vehicles.

The project would not affect public access. Pile driving would avoid the spring-summer California least tern breeding season (April 1 through September 15). Measures would be included to avoid effects on marine mammals and sea turtles, including:

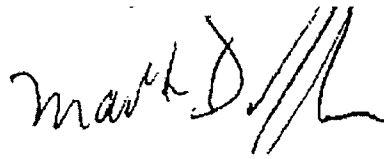
- Piles may be jetted to minimize pile driving and associated underwater and airborne noise.
- A cushion block would be used to reduce noise generated during pile driving activities.
- To reduce noise impacts, pile driving would only occur during normal work hours (between 7 A.M. and 5 P.M.) Monday through Friday.
- To encourage fish and wildlife dispersal away from the immediate area of pile driving, at the start of pile driving activity or when pile driving has ceased for more than an hour, a soft-start technique would be used involving a gradual ramp-up before pile driving reaches full energy.
- A biological monitor would be stationed on Pier 160 and would order a shutdown of pile driving any time a wild marine mammal or sea turtle is observed within or approaching the zone of potential harassment defined by a root mean square (RMS) underwater sound pressure level (SPL) of 160 decibels (dB) referenced to 1 micro Pascal (re 1 μ Pa). This is currently estimated as extending 74 m from the source, based on an estimated RMS SPL of 173 dB re 1 μ Pa at 10 m from the source, and application of the NMFS-approved practical spreading model for transmission loss.
- The barge and floating boat docks, if used at Pier 159, would be positioned so that no eelgrass is shaded.

While pile driving has the potential to affect expected infrequent occurrences of sea turtle and marine mammals, with the above monitoring and avoidance measures, effects to these species would be minimal. The Navy has coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which confirms no estimated "take" or "harassment" of marine mammals (under the Marine Mammal Protection Act), and the Navy has committed to notify the Commission staff in the event of any reinitiation of consultation with NMFS.

Under the federal consistency regulations (Section 930.35), a negative determination can be submitted for an activity "which is the same as or similar to activities for which consistency determinations have been prepared in the past." The Commission and its staff have concurred with the above-noted Navy consistency and negative determinations for pier construction on the east side of Point Loma (Navy Scripps Pier and Wharf Replacement - ND-0202-13, Navy, Fuel Pier - CD-011-13), and at the Naval Base San Diego on the east side of San Diego Bay (Navy Pier 12 Replacement - ND-011-11, Navy Piers 10/11 Demolition and replacement with a single pier).

With the measures incorporated into the activities to minimize effect on sensitive habitat, marine resources, water quality, public access and recreation, and commercial and recreational fishing, the Commission staff **agrees** with the Navy that proposed activities would be similar to consistency and negative determinations with which we have previously concurred. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Mark Delaplaine of the Commission staff at (415) 904-5289 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Lester". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and "L".

(for) CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

cc: San Diego District
Army Corps, San Diego Field Office

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September 19, 2013

Cicely A. Muldoon
Superintendent
ATTN: Lorraine Parsons
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Subject: Negative Determination ND-0215-13 (Wetland swale creation near Abbott's Lagoon,
Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County)

Dear Ms. Muldoon:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to create a small wetland swale at the G Ranch near Abbott's Lagoon in Point Reyes National Seashore. The Seashore began a large coastal dune restoration project south of Abbott's Lagoon in 2011 which involved mechanical excavation of non-native European beachgrass (Consistency Determination CD-026-10). This project has been judged successful due in large measure to germination and reproduction of the rare Tidestrom's lupine in the project area and the nesting in restored foredunes of the federally-threatened Western snowy plover. However, dry winters and accompanying high winds have discouraged vegetation establishment across the entire restoration project area and, as a result, sands that accumulated during decades of stabilization by the now-excavated non-native, invasive plants have remobilized and spread across the project area, almost exclusively in areas that were already previously buried by sand.

One area that has been adversely affected by recent sand remobilization is a very narrow wetland drainage swale, approximately 0.11 acre in size, located between the eastern perimeter of the Abbott's Lagoon backdunes and several small dune hills in the G Ranch pasture. This swale serves as a source of water for G Ranch cattle and as habitat for the federally-threatened California red-legged frog and the federally-endangered Sonoma alopecurus, a perennial herb. The NPS reports that this wetland feature has existed at least since the 1940s, is permanently inundated, and that the primary hydrologic source for this wetland is groundwater, as the swale is a deep, narrow depression that intercepts the groundwater table. To help offset adverse impacts to ranching operations and listed species due to the advance of sand into this wetland swale, the NPS is proposing to create a 0.19-acre drainage swale wetland nearby the existing swale but outside the area expected to be buried by future sand transport. The proposed swale would attempt to mimic the topographic and hydrologic conditions present in the natural swale and provide habitat for the two above-listed species.

The primary factors used to select potential project sites included a reasonable depth to groundwater during dry periods of the year and natural sheltering of the site from sands being remobilized off the Abbott's Lagoon restoration project area. Five sites were investigated and a location for the proposed 0.19-acre swale was chosen in a wet meadow (approximately 150 feet northeast of the northern edge of the existing wetland swale) that is either shallowly flooded or inundated some portion of the winter and early spring, with a groundwater table depth of approximately 1.5 feet. No rare plants have been observed in this location since monitoring of this area began in 1994. The NPS would limit construction to the time period between September 1 and October 31 to ensure maximum avoidance of wet weather conditions and special status breeding or flowering periods. The entire perimeter of the wetland swale to be constructed would be surrounded by a silt fence stapled to the ground to capture fallback of excavated soils. A biological monitor would conduct red-legged frog clearance surveys every morning prior to work in the excavation area and under equipment, and would be present on the site throughout construction once excavation creates open water conditions. Should frogs be encountered, the NPS would follow requirements established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The wetland swale would be revegetated using transplants of *Sonoma alopecurus*, grown from local seed at a greenhouse with experience in propagating grass plugs from seed. Due to the site's proximity to other wetland areas with native species, natural recruitment is expected to occur rapidly.

The estimated quantity of soil to be excavated from the proposed, elongated, flat-bottom wetland swale (with a maximum depth of four feet) is 1,226 cubic yards. With a 15% swell factor, the anticipated disposal volume is 1,410 cu.yds. Excavated soil would be transported via truck and hauled approximately 150 feet south to a 0.34-acre upland area, where it would be spread and graded to blend with adjacent dune hill topography. This area does not support any rare plants or animals and is not designated as environmentally sensitive habitat. The NPS notes that as the disposal area falls on the leeward side of the dune hills, there is a potential for dune sands that naturally collect on these windward and peak portions of the hills to eventually migrate inland and cover the proposed soil disposal area, thereby creating additional dune scrub areas. Three pieces of heavy equipment would each need to make one round-trip from an existing park road across pasture wetlands to access the project area for the three-day excavation work. A Seashore biologist would be present to ensure that this temporary access does not create adverse impacts to pasture wetland habitat, and the NPS will prepare a Surface Water Prevention and Pollution Plan which will include best management practices to ensure protection of wetland habitat adjacent to the project site and accessway.

The NPS states in its negative determination that the proposed project would restore wetland conditions and enhance the functional capacity of wetlands within the G Ranch pasture by increasing the potential for this area to support the listed California red-legged frog and *Sonoma alopecurus*. The project would:

... convert 0.19 acre of seasonally saturated wet meadow to freshwater marsh. Due to locally high groundwater tables, seasonally saturated meadow and grassland is quite common in the G Ranch pasture, totaling hundreds of acres. In the meantime, inland dune migration is beginning to eliminate freshwater marsh habitat on the

northwestern perimeter of the pasture. Excavation would not result in loss of any wetlands or waters.

In addition, the NPS also states that the proposed wetland swale would benefit current agricultural uses by restoring a natural watering source for cattle on the G Ranch that has been adversely affected by the remobilization of sand from adjacent dunes.

The project area is located within the boundary of previously-conducted cultural resource surveys for the Abbott's Lagoon Coastal Dune Restoration Project (CD-026-10). The NPS is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office to determine if the proposed project is covered by the Section 106 permit for the Abbott's Lagoon project. If so, the NPS would comply with all the requirements of the previous permit, including the following provision:

... a member of the Seashore's Cultural Resources staff would be present during all excavation activities, and the tribe (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria; FIGR) would be given advance notice of the project. As with all Seashore projects, the contractors will be required to conform to reasonable mitigation measures to ensure that no cultural, archaeological, or historic resources previously unknown are damaged during the construction process.

The Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed wetland swale creation on the G Ranch within Point Reyes National Seashore will not adversely affect coastal resources. Construction activities will result in minor, short-term impacts to biological and physical resources, but project implementation will lead to significant, long-term benefits to freshwater wetlands that provide habitat for federally-listed species, and will serve to replace freshwater wetland habitat in danger of burial due to remobilized sand associated with dune restoration on the Seashore. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Larry Simon at (415) 904-5288 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

cc: CCC – North Central Coast District

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September 20, 2013

Cicely Muldoon
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
ATTN: Dale Dualan
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Subject: Negative Determination ND-0218-13 (Limantour Road Culvert Replacement, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County)

Dear Ms. Muldoon:

The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to replace a failed culvert on Limantour Road, approximately 1.25 miles from its intersection with Bear Valley Road. Limantour Road is a main access road in the Seashore, providing access to park housing, a youth hostel, education center, and numerous visitor facilities including Limantour Beach. On January 1, 2013, following a month of heavy rainfall, an existing 48-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert failed and created a sinkhole in the pavement across the entire width of the two-lane road. After the culvert failure, the road was closed for three days until temporary structures were installed to provide one lane of traffic. This arrangement exists today and the NPS now proposes to construct permanent repairs prior to the start of the upcoming rainy season and while conditions at the site are dry and suitable for repair work.

The proposed repair and replacement work includes the following elements: (1) remove the failed 160-foot-long culvert and an adjacent, previously-abandoned culvert; (2) remove and replace paved roadway and curbing; (3) install a 48-inch diameter and 93-foot-long CMP culvert; (4) remove and reuse existing rock riprap at the culvert inlet and import an additional 20 cu.yds. of rock for inlet protection; (5) remove and reuse with minor modifications the existing steel trash rack at inlet; (6) install a new concrete headwall at the inlet; (7) remove and reuse existing rock riprap at the culvert outlet and import 40 cu.yds of rock for outlet protection; and (8) sowing of re-graded road shoulders with native grass seed to aid with revegetation of disturbed project areas.

The proposed replacement culvert is 67 feet shorter than the existing, failed culvert; the project would therefore return an equivalent length of streambed to natural conditions. The NPS expects the scheduled September/October 2013 repair and replacement work to take up to four weeks to complete. Construction staging areas will be established on an existing gravel turn-out on Limantour Road one-half mile from the project site and on road shoulders at the project site.

ND-0218-13 (National Park Service)

Traffic control measures will be employed at all necessary sections of Limantour Road during the construction period to ensure safe visitor access through the work zone. Throughout construction the NPS will implement an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (including the use of silt fencing, sandbags, and straw wattles), a Waste Management Plan, and a Spill Prevention and Response Plan for sediment and erosion control and to protect water quality and terrestrial and aquatic habitat at and downstream of the project area.

The Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed project will not adversely affect coastal resources. The shorter replacement culvert will reduce direct impacts to the streambed, and the project will restore safe public access for vehicles and bicycles along the well-traveled Limantour Road in the Seashore. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Larry Simon at (415) 904-5288 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

LARRY Simon FOR

CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

cc: CCC – North Central Coast District