



Staff Report to the Planning Commission

Application Number: **101121**

Applicant: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) **Agenda Date:** April 13, 2011

Owner: Various **Agenda Item #:** 10
APN: County-Wide **Time:** 9:00 a.m.

Project Description: Proposal to expand the definition for restoration and management of rare and declining habitats and to add the practices of wetland management and upland habitat management to the existing Master Permit for environmental enhancement projects. Requires an Amendment to Permit 101002.

Location: Countywide

Supervisory District: All

Approval Required: Amendment to a Master Permit that includes a coastal permit, riparian exception, grading permit, biotic approvals, and encroachment permit.

Staff Recommendation:

- Approve the Notice of Exemption and direct staff to file a copy with the State Clearinghouse and Clerk of the Board
- Approve Application 101121, based on the attached findings and conditions.

Attachments

- A. Revised Master Permit (101121)
- B. Proposed Revisions and Additional Practices
- C. Findings
- D. CEQA Categorical Exemption

History

On April 13, 2005, the Planning Commission approved a Master Permit for the RCD to conduct small environmentally beneficial projects, such as stream bank stabilization, culvert repair/replacement, exotic vegetation removal, and fish habitat improvement projects, primarily on private parcels throughout the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County. These projects were accomplished by combining all the permits and approvals from the various agencies that have jurisdiction of these types of projects into a single master approval, valid for 3 years. This permit was extended for two years in 2008.

On July 28, 2010, the Planning Commission approved a second extension with minor amendments to the Master Permit.

Proposed Amendments

Over the last five years, the RCD has fine tuned their understanding of the types of restoration work most needed in Santa Cruz County. To reflect both this knowledge and also through the input of the resource agencies, the RCD proposes to amend the Master Permit to modify the existing practice "Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats" to include fuel load management, as well and add two new practices, "Wetland Management" and "Upland Wildlife Habitat Management". Through the implementation of an array of environmental protection measures, the proposed activities will not generate significant environmental impacts. The environmental protection measures are described in Exhibit A (General Required Conditions for All Projects Authorized under the Countywide Permit Coordination Program).

An expansion of the definition of the practice, "Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats" is proposed. The amendment will include fuel load management to allow private landowners to respond to recent fires as coordinated with the RCD and Calfire's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP outlines fire-prone areas where vegetation management is needed.

The practice, "Wetland Management", is proposed to be added. This practice will be used to restore and enhance wetland functions, predominantly focused on areas that were previously in agriculture, and to enhance habitat for sensitive species. The RCD will continue to coordinate with the Coastal Commission and US Fish and Wildlife Service to implement this practice. In particular, the RCD will work closely with the regulatory agencies to ensure that designs meet all regulatory requirements.

The practice, "Upland Wildlife Habitat Management", is proposed to be added, to enhance upland habitat for sensitive species. The practice includes activities such as fencing, watering facilities, and livestock pipeline. Inclusion of the practice was requested by US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as local entomologists and range specialists, particularly for management of habitat for the Ohlone Tiger Beetle and San Francisco popcorn flower.

Eligible projects implementing these practices are subject to size constraints and other limiting criteria, and are carried out under the auspices and oversight of the Santa Cruz County RCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Conditions of Approval

Due to the unique nature of this permit and the requirement that it be submitted to various state and federal agencies in addition to the County of Santa Cruz, the format of this Staff Report and Master Permit vary from the standard reports submitted by the Planning Department.

The Conditions of Approval are typically attached independently to a staff report. In this case they are contained within the revised Master Permit. There are three levels of Conditions of Approval for this Master Permit and the practices it authorizes. The first level consists of

conditions that apply to the Master Permit program as a whole and are detailed on pages 8-11 of the Master Permit, Exhibit A. The second level consists of general conditions to protect the environment that apply to each of the individual practices undertaken under the Master Permit, and appear in Attachment A of the Master Permit (Exhibit A). The third level consists of project type-specific conditions to protect the environment, and appear under "Additional Practice-Specific Measures" for each project-type in the Master Permit (Attachment B of Exhibit A).

Environmental Review

The Environmental Coordinator for the County of Santa Cruz has found that the proposed amendments to the Master Permit are exempt from CEQA under a Class 8 Categorical Exemption; Actions Taken by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. Class 8 exemptions consist of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

Conclusion

The proposed amendment of the Master Permit for environmental enhancement projects allows for the expansion of a successful program that partners local, state and federal agencies to help private landowners address erosion and improve degraded habitat that would otherwise be cost prohibitive to undertake. By reviewing the experience of the past five years, planning staff and the applicants are suggesting improvements to the Master Permit that will provide more opportunities to land owners across the County to engage in enhancing our natural resources.

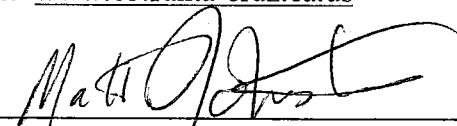
Staff Recommendation


- Certification that the proposal is exempt from further Environmental Review under the California Environmental Quality Act.
- **Approval** of Application Number **101121**, based on the attached findings and conditions.

Supplementary reports and information referred to in this report are on file and available for viewing at the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, and are hereby made a part of the administrative record for the proposed project.

The County Code and General Plan, as well as hearing agendas and additional information are available online at: www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

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Report Reviewed By: 
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Approval Date: _____

Effective Date: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Paia Levine
Principal Planner

Matt Johnston
Project Planner

Appeals: Any property owner, or other person aggrieved, or any other person whose interests are adversely affected by any act or determination of the Planning Commission, may appeal the act or determination to the Board of Supervisors in accordance with chapter 18.10 of the Santa Cruz County Code



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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TOM BURNS, DIRECTOR

MASTER PERMIT **for** **ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

I. Project Description:

This Master Permit for Environmental Enhancement Projects (Master Permit) implements the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program and is being issued to the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (RCD) for the implementation of small, environmentally beneficial projects, such as stream bank protection, gully stabilization, culvert repair/replacement, erosion control structures, exotic vegetation removal, and fish stream habitat improvement projects, primarily on private parcels (mostly farm and ranch lands) throughout the unincorporated area (except within the "original jurisdiction" of the California Coastal Commission – i.e., primarily areas below the mean high tide line). This Master Permit constitutes County approval for the conduct of 15 specific types of conservation practices. Eligible projects implementing these practices are subject to size constraints and other limiting criteria, and shall be carried out under the auspices and oversight of the Santa Cruz County RCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This Master Permit incorporates all of the separate County permits that would otherwise be needed for the conduct of these qualifying environmental enhancement projects, including Coastal Zone approvals, riparian corridor exceptions, grading permits, erosion control plans, encroachment permits for projects impacting County right-of-way, and/or sensitive habitat reviews, as applicable (however separate Building Permits would be required for bridges and retaining walls over 3-feet in height).

A more detailed project description for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program authorized by this Master Permit is provided in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study for the program (see Exhibit I).

Work performed according to the provisions of this Master Permit, as described and conditioned herein, are deemed to be consistent with the County General Plan and Local Coastal Program (LCP), and the requirements of the following County regulations:

- Encroachment Permit Regulations – County Code Chapter 9.70
- Zoning Ordinance – County Code Chapter 13.10
- Coastal Zone Regulations – County Code Chapter 13.20
- Grading Ordinance – County Code Chapter 16.20

- Erosion Control Ordinance – County Code Chapter 16.22
- Water Quality Control – County Code Chapter 16.24
- Riparian Corridor and Wetlands Protection Ordinance – County Code Chapter 16.30
- Sensitive Habitat Protection – County Code Chapter 16.32
- Significant Trees Protection Ordinance - County Code Chapter 16.34
- Native American Cultural Sites Ordinance – County Code Chapter 16.40
- Paleontological Resources Protection Ordinance – County Code Chapter 16.44
- Permit and Approval Procedures – County Code Chapter 18.10

II. Authorized Project Types:

Work authorized by this Master Permit falls into one or more of the following 15 project categories (see Exhibit B for more detailed descriptions of each category), subject to the general criteria listed in Exhibit A, and to project type-specific criteria including maximum dimensions and volumes as listed in Exhibit B:

1. **Access Roads:** Improvements to existing access roads to reduce or eliminate erosion.
2. **Plantings:** Installation of vegetation for erosion control and to improve wildlife habitat and visual resources.
3. **Stream Habitat Improvement and Management:** Implementing fish habitat enhancements (including removing/modifying barriers to fish passage).
4. **Grade Stabilization Structures:** Installation of structures to reduce or eliminate erosion, such as head cutting in gullies.
5. **Grassed Waterways:** Establishing grassed drainage channels to ensure stable conveyance of runoff.
6. **Obstruction Removal:** Removal and disposal of unnatural structures from waterways such as abandoned cars and appliances (but not including large woody debris).
7. **Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats:** Restoring and conserving rare or declining native vegetation communities by removing exotic, invasive plants and restoring native vegetation in the project area and managing fuel loads in sensitive habitats, allowing treatment and maintenance of invasive species and noxious weeds, and revegetation of a treated area.
8. **Sediment Basins:** Installation of sediment basins, with (or without) water control and associated outlets and energy dissipating structures, to help stabilize downstream channel flows.
9. **Streambank Protection:** Using vegetation or structures for stream bank erosion protection.
10. **Stream Channel Stabilization:** Stabilizing a stream channel with a suitable structure and removing large amounts of accumulated sediment (from non-fish bearing streams).

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11. **Stream Crossing:** Installing bridges, etc. when a barrier to fish passage has been removed.
12. **Structure for Water Control:** Installing certain types of water flow control structures, to reduce or eliminate erosion or flooding, and which do not create a barrier to fish passage.
13. **Underground Outlets:** Installing an underground conduit to collect surface water and convey it to a suitable outlet, so as to prevent erosion and downstream sedimentation.
14. **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management:** Creating, restoring, and/or enhancing upland habitat for wildlife species through the installation of infrastructure or manipulation of vegetation to sustain optimal habitat conditions.
15. **Wetland Management:** Restoring and enhancing wetland conditions similar to those that existed prior to modification for farming, grazing, or other land use, including managing water regime to improve habitat for desired species or for pest control.

III. Required Criteria for Eligible Projects:

A. General Criteria: All qualifying environmental enhancement projects must comply with the general required conditions set forth in Exhibit A. These conditions include limitations on:

- Timing of construction (e.g., limits on work during the wet season);
- Site disturbance (e.g., earthmoving and vegetation removal);
- Construction equipment;
- Revegetation and removal of exotic plants;
- Erosion generating activities;
- Work in streams, floodplains, wetlands and permanently ponded areas;
- Use of herbicides;
- Impacts to Special Status species;
- Impacts to floodwater conveyance patterns.

B. Project Specific Criteria: Exhibit B provides a detailed description of each type of eligible project, as well as the size/volume limitations and specific design criteria and standards for each conservation practice.

IV. Procedures for Review and Approval of Projects:

A. RCD/NRCS Role: Each qualifying environmental enhancement project must be carried out under the auspices and oversight of the NRCS and the RCD, following the NRCS Conservation Planning Process (as described in Exhibit D). The NRCS and RCD will cooperatively maintain oversight of all qualifying projects/activities, will use a nine-

step conservation planning process (see Table D-1 in Exhibit D) to customize a management plan tailored for the unique conditions of each participating property and its owner/manager. A conservation plan describing the selected management system is prepared with the land owner/manager. In addition, prior to the onset of activities that result in the disturbance of habitat of any species listed under the Federal and/or California Endangered Species Acts, all project workers including NRCS and RCD staff and cooperating property owners/managers shall be given information on the listed species in the project area, by the NRCS/RCD, including a brief overview of the species' natural history, the protection afforded the species by the Federal and/or California Endangered Species Acts, and the specific protective measures to be followed during implementation of the practices.

The NRCS and RCD will administer the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program using *Procedures for Complying with Multiple Permits: A Guide for Conservation Planners*, a manual that will be designed specifically for the program. This manual will be prepared once all of the permits from participating Federal, state and local agencies (including the Master Permit) have been finalized. The manual will contain all of the final permit conditions (as described in this Master Permit and all of the final approvals issued by the other regulatory agencies) and will be used by the NRCS and RCD staff to develop and implement the projects to be carried out under the Permit Coordination Program. The guidebook will specify the process for ensuring individual projects qualify for the program; list conservation practice selection, design, and implementation criteria and conditions required by the agencies in their individual permits; provide information on endangered species habitat; and detail the monitoring and reporting requirements of the program.

B. Pre-Construction Review by County: As described more fully in Exhibit C, each spring the NRCS and RCD will submit to the County a list of projects for that year as part of a Preliminary Pre-Construction Notification (PCN). County staff will review the submitted information to verify that the projects qualify under the Master Permit program; and will notify the NRCS/RCD if County staff determines there are projects that need to be reviewed in greater detail. The County will make every attempt to contact the NRCS and RCD, meet if needed, and resolve any outstanding issues within a fixed time frame (i.e., 21-days). County staff may conduct pre-construction site inspections during this period (or at other times), if necessary. The NRCS/RCD shall then submit a Final PCN incorporating any project revisions required by the County or other agencies, if changes are requested. If no changes are requested, the draft PCN becomes final. No additional County approval is needed for projects that qualify under the Master Permit program, other than building permits for certain structures (e.g., bridges and retaining walls over 3-feet in height).

C. Pre-Construction Review by Other Agencies: The NRCS and RCD have coordinated with applicable state and federal regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction

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over natural resources that may be impacted by the projects approved under the Master Permit program (hereafter, “participating agencies”). The Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program is designed to ensure that outside agency mandates are upheld and that permit conditions are feasible for the NRCS, RCD, and landowners participating in the program. To ensure this is the case, and as described more fully in Exhibit C, the PCN will be submitted each year to the participating agencies. Project conditions to protect resources are built into the various permits and/or agreements that are issued by these agencies. The regulatory approval mechanisms required by each State and Federal agency are summarized in the table below:

Regulatory Approvals Required From Other Agencies as Part of the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program

Agency	Approval Mechanism
California Coastal Commission	Master Permit issued through the County includes provisions for work in that portion of the Coastal Zone located within the County’s delegated coastal permit jurisdiction, in compliance with the California Coastal Act (i.e., a County Coastal Permit is incorporated into Master Permit). This Master Permit does not cover development within the Coastal Commission’s retained coastal permit jurisdiction.
California Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG)	Memorandum of Agreement in place with Region 3 of CDFG and a Template 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be developed for the Santa Cruz permit coordination program
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Regional General Permit, Section 404 and Section 10 of the Federal Clean Water Act
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
NOAA Fisheries	Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification

California Coastal Commission – Coastal Development Permit (partially covered by the “Master Permit” issued by the County

Under the California Coastal Act, coastal development permits are required for most types of development within the California coastal zone. The California Coastal Commission has certified the Santa Cruz County Local Coastal Program (LCP) and delegated most direct permit and enforcement authority within the County’s coastal zone to the County (subject to Commission oversight, review, and in some cases, appeal of County coastal permit decisions). The Commission retains direct coastal permit jurisdiction over tidelands, submerged lands, and/or

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public trust lands (i.e., typically areas below the mean high tide line such as those along the immediate shoreline, tidal estuaries, lagoons, etc.). Thus, the Master Permit issued through the County can only allow for development consistent with it that is located within the County's coastal permit jurisdiction area. Any development located within the Coastal Commission's retained coastal permit (or "original") jurisdiction is not covered by the Master Permit and would require a coastal permit directly from the Coastal Commission.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) – MOA and Template 1603 Streambed Alteration Agreement

Under Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, anyone proposing to carry out an action in a river, creek or stream must notify the Department of Fish and Game, which is then responsible for determining if there is a need for a Streambed Alteration Agreement. A Streambed Alteration Agreement is a contract between the applicant and the CDFG regarding what will and will not be done in the riparian zone and stream course. The NRCS and the non-profit organization Sustainable Conservation have developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Region 3 of CDFG. It is expected that a Regional MOA for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program and a Template 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be approved for the program. This Template will be used to expedite preparation and review of 1602 Agreements for each project carried out under the permit coordination program. If not approved, individual 1600 permits will be obtained.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Regional General Permit (RGP)

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required for discharge of dredged or fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. Such activities include the modification of banks, filling of wetlands, and alteration of creeks or other waterways. Similar activities with the potential to impact navigable waters of the United State require a permit under Section 10 of the Clean Water Act. For the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program, the USACE will issue a Regional General Permit (RGP) for the program. The RGP authorizes reoccurring activities that do not have more than minimal impacts either individually or cumulatively on the aquatic environment at the regional level (within a certain geographical area).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) - Section 7 Consultation under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

A biological consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service is required when a project is proposed to be undertaken in an area where Federally-listed endangered species are known to occur. Federal agencies engage in a consultation process provided for in Section (7)(a)(2) of the Federal ESA, which requires a consultation

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for any action that is "authorized, funded, or carried out" by a Federal agency that may affect listed species. Under the proposed program, a Section 7 Consultation is conducted through USFWS with the USACE as the requesting (Federal) agency. The result of the consultation process is a biological opinion, which prescribes measures for protecting endangered species and sets a limit on incidental take of species during project construction.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries (formerly National Marine Fisheries Service – NMFS) - Section 7 Consultation under the Federal ESA

The need for a consultation with NOAA Fisheries is triggered by the potential for listed anadromous species (including Coho salmon and Steelhead trout in Santa Cruz County) to be present in the area where a project is proposed. For the proposed program, NOAA Fisheries will be issuing a Biological Opinion through a formal Section 7 process with the USACE along with the allowance for incidental take for listed salmonids in the project area.

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) - 401 Certification

Under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards have the authority to issue, waive, or deny certification that a proposed activity is in conformance with state water-quality standards. (A Section 401 certification essentially is the issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES, permit for discharges to waterways that may occur during the construction phase of a project.) Alternatively, under the state Porter-Cologne Act, the Regional Water Quality Control Board has the authority to issue a water discharge requirement (WDR) specifying the concentration or load limits allowable for a particular activity. A need for a Section 401 certification or WDR is triggered by the potential for an activity to result in the release of waste material into a waterway. Thus, although the net result of the practices permitted under the proposed project is the reduction of sediment and pesticide delivery to streams, the initial implementation of these practices may result in discharges of sediments to waterways. For example, grading activities, stream bank restoration, preparations for planting, and construction of sedimentation ponds and underground drainage facilities may result in a short-term increase in erosion potential. All permits issued by the USACE for a project require 401 certification by the RWQCB.

D. Post-Construction Monitoring and Reporting: As described more fully in Exhibit C, Mid-Construction Season Status Reports and end-of-season Annual Reports will be prepared and submitted for review to the County and participating agencies by the NRCS/RCD, describing the status of all environmental enhancement projects carried out under the Master Permit program until projects are installed and are functioning according to design standards and serving their intended purpose, and until all mitigation

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measure installment, monitoring obligations and success criteria, are met. This provides the agencies with the opportunity to review the status and progress of projects implemented under the Program and to determine whether further clarification and/or minor project modifications may be necessary to meet program objectives and/or meet the terms of the Master Permit.

The Mid-Construction Season Status Report, to be distributed by October 1st of each year, will indicate the mid-season status of each project undertaken that year.

The Annual Report shall be based on the NRCS Status Review format and will be distributed to the participating agencies (those listed in Section IV[C] above) by January 31st of each year. The Annual Report will list projects, and describe each project's purpose, area affected, natural biological enhancements, and amount of yardage, cut and slope of the work, etc. The Annual Report will assess the conservation practices in terms of their current condition, check the practices against the original plan, evaluate success criteria achievement, and provide recommendations for resolving any problems with the implementation of the practices and/or mitigation measures. The Annual Report will also list conservation benefits and any net gains in wetlands and riparian areas, describe actions taken to avoid adverse effects to listed endangered/threatened species and their habitats, and provide photo documentation of before and after site conditions. Consistent with the CEQA Mitigation Monitoring Plan in section VI below, the Annual Report shall also document progress made towards implementation of project mitigations and achievement of success criteria, including those listed in the CEQA Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program and, in situations where mitigation measures are not being sufficiently implemented, provide recommended remediation measures to meet individual project success criteria as well as strategies to improve their implementation in the future.

V. Conditions of Approval:

There are three levels of Conditions of Approval for this Master Permit and the projects it authorizes. The first level consists of conditions that apply to the Master Permit program as a whole (Conditions A-E below). The second level consists of general conditions to protect the environment that apply to each of the individual projects undertaken under the Master Permit, and appear in Exhibit A. The third level consists of project type-specific conditions to protect the environment, and appear under "Additional Practice-Specific Measures" for each project-type in Exhibit B. Failure to comply with the conditions of approval, including the terms of the mitigation monitoring program described in part C and section VI below, may result in permit revocation pursuant to Section 18.10.462 of the Santa Cruz County Code.

A. Outside Agency Approvals: Prior to exercise of this Master Permit, documentation shall be submitted by the NRCS/RCD, for review and approval by

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Environmental Planning staff, certifying that all required state and federal approvals have been obtained. Copies of any approval documents shall be provided to Environmental Planning staff (e.g., United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] Incidental Take Permit and Biological Opinion, National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] Section 7 consultation, California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG] Stream Alteration Agreement, California Regional Water Quality Control Board [RWQCB] Water Quality Certification permit, etc.).

B. Compliance with County Regulations: All projects undertaken pursuant to the Master Permit must meet criteria set forth in County ordinances, including the following County Code Chapters, and must conform to the requirements of the requisite findings contained therein, as applicable:

- 9.70 – Encroachment Permit Regulations
- 12.10 – Building Regulations
- 13.10 – Zoning Ordinance
- 13.20 – Coastal Zone Regulations
- 16.10 – Geologic Hazards Ordinance
- 16.20 – Grading Regulations
- 16.22 – Erosion Control Ordinance
- 16.24 – Water Quality Control Ordinance
- 16.30 – Riparian Corridor and Wetlands Protection Ordinance
- 16.32 – Sensitive Habitat Protection Ordinance
- 16.34 – Significant Trees Protection Ordinance
- 16.40 – Native American Cultural Sites Ordinance
- 16.44 – Paleontological Resource Protection Ordinance
- 18.10 – Permit and Approval Procedures

Where other design criteria conflict with County ordinances the criteria given in the County ordinances shall apply. In some cases supporting information from a geotechnical or other civil engineer and special inspections may be required.

C. Reporting from NRCS/RCD to County: By May 15 of each year, the NRCS/RCD shall circulate for review by the County and participating agencies, Preliminary Pre-Construction Notifications (PCNs) describing all projects proposed for that year (consistent with Section IV[B] above and Exhibit C). For Tier I and Tier II projects, PCN's may also be submitted on March 15th. A Final PCN describing any project revisions based on review of the Preliminary PCN shall be subsequently submitted to the County and participating agencies for final review, if revisions were requested during the review period. By October 1 of each year, the NRCS/RCD shall distribute for review a Mid-Construction Season Status Report and, by January 31 of each year, an end-of-the-season Annual Report (consistent with Section IV[D] above and

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Exhibit C). The PCN and/or the Annual Report (as applicable per Exhibit C, #6) shall document progress made towards implementation of project mitigation measures and achievement of success criteria, as required by the CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (as described in VI below and in Exhibit C). The Preliminary PCN, Final PCN, Mid-Construction Season Status Report, and end-of-season Annual Report shall be consistent with, and subject to the detailed parameters for same identified in Exhibit C.

D. Duration of Master Permit: The Master Permit shall expire five (5) years after its initial effective date. This expiration date can be extended one time for a period not to exceed an additional five (5) years, subject to a time extension at a Level 3 approval, provided the Permittee requests (by letter) said time extension within four (4) years and six (6) months of the initial permit effective date. The five (5) year time extension may only be granted on the condition that the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program is operating under the terms of the Master Permit and there have been no significant violations or other problems that have not been adequately addressed. If there are such violations and/or unresolved problems, amendments to the Master Permit may be required before the five (5) year extension is granted, and any such amendments shall require a Level 6 approval.

After the initial five (5) year term, the Master Permit may be amended to extend its duration an additional five (5) years, subject to a Level 6 approval. At that time the approving body shall determine the level of approval required for future five (5) year time extensions. All amendment requests to extend the duration of the Master Permit an additional five (5) years shall include data sufficient to evaluate the effectiveness of Master Permit implementation, including an identification of potential modifications to improve Permit effectiveness and/or resource protection and enhancement. All County actions on the Master Permit, including initial approval and subsequent amendments, shall be appealable to the California Coastal Commission.

E. Indemnification: As a condition of this Master Permit for Environmental Enhancement Projects ("Master Permit") the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District ("Permittee") is required to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County of Santa Cruz ("COUNTY"), its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any claim (including attorneys' fees), against the COUNTY, its officers, employees, and agents to attack, set aside, void, or annul this Master Permit of the COUNTY or any subsequent amendment of this Master Permit which is requested by the Permittee.

1. COUNTY shall promptly notify the Permittee of any claim, action, or proceeding against which the COUNTY seeks to be defended, indemnified, or held harmless. COUNTY shall cooperate fully in such defense. If COUNTY fails to notify the Permittee within sixty (60) days of any such claim, action, or proceeding, or fails to cooperate fully in the defense thereof, the Permittee shall not thereafter be

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responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the COUNTY if such failure to notify or cooperate was significantly prejudicial to the Permittee.

2. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the COUNTY from participating in the defense of any claim, action, or proceeding if both of the following occur:
 - a. The COUNTY bears its own attorney's fees and costs; and
 - b. The COUNTY defends the action in good faith.
3. The Permittee shall not be required to pay or perform any settlement unless such Permittee has approved the settlement. When representing the COUNTY, the Permittee shall not enter into any stipulation or settlement modifying or affecting the interpretation or validity of any of the terms or conditions of the development approval without the prior written consent of the COUNTY.

F. Individual Project Conditions: All projects undertaken pursuant to this Master Permit must conform to the general conditions listed in Exhibit A and the project specific conditions and specifications listed in Exhibit B (under the "Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures" listed for each project/practice type).

VI. CEQA Mitigation Monitoring Plan:

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a CEQA Initial Study has been prepared by the County for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program. Pursuant to the Initial Study's finding that the program will not generate significant unavoidable environmental impacts if certain mitigations are implemented, a CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared (State Clearinghouse No. 2004112063). The mitigations listed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration (Exhibit H) have been incorporated into sections 9 and 10 of Exhibit A (General Required Conditions for All Projects Authorized Under the Countywide Permit Coordination Program).

As required by Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code, the implementation of the mitigation measures will be monitored for compliance according to the mitigation monitoring program described below, and this program is adopted as a condition of approval (as part of Condition of Approval C above) for this project. To implement the mitigation monitoring program for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program, the NRCS/RCD shall provide a CEQA mitigation implementation status report as part of each year's Pre-Construction Notification and/or Annual Report (as detailed in Exhibit C, #6). The Annual Report shall list each of the mitigations specified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and provide a description of each mitigation's implementation status, as well as a description of any additional actions that may be needed to ensure that each mitigation is fully carried out and all success criteria are met, with a strategy for ensuring that such actions are taken in the following year. In

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describing the implementation status of each mitigation measure, the NRCS/RCD shall provide specific data for each applicable project (e.g., percent of plants established, percent of non-native invasives, documentation of pre- and post-project conditions, dates that applicable RCE/hydrologist reports were submitted to and approved by County staff, etc.). The purpose of this monitoring is to ensure compliance with the environmental mitigations during implementation and operation of the Master Permit program.

VII. Documents Incorporated by Reference:

- Exhibit A: General Required Conditions for All Projects Authorized Under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e., Master Permit)
- Exhibit B: Conservation Practices Eligible Under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e., Master Permit), with Allowed Dimensions, and Project-Specific Conditions
- Exhibit C: Notification and Communication Procedures for the County Master Permit Program
- Exhibit D: The NRCS Approach to Conservation
- Exhibit E: Approved Non-Invasive Introduced Plant Species for Revegetation Use
- Exhibit F: Approved Native Plant Species for Revegetation Use
- Exhibit G: Prohibited Plant Species List
- Exhibit H: Required Mitigation Measures for CEQA Negative Declaration
- Exhibit I: CEQA Initial Study and Negative Declaration
- Exhibit J: Detailed Summary of revisions to the 5-year Santa Cruz Countywide Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program

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EXHIBIT A:

General Required Conditions for All Projects Authorized Under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e., Master Permit)

1. Use of Least Environmentally Damaging Alternative	<p>Where there are various possible points of access, approaches/designs, etc. use of the least environmentally damaging alternative shall be required (e.g., removing the least amount of vegetation possible, placing the least amount fill possible, etc.) unless there are extenuating circumstances as approved by the County. Whenever possible, conservation practices shall be located to fully avoid negative resource impacts, including impacts on potential habitats of sensitive species identified during site evaluations or discovered subsequently. In some cases, short-term disturbance to potential habitat may be necessary to prevent further degradation of the site and to improve habitat for the species of concern. In sensitive habitat areas (as defined pursuant to County Code Chapter 16.32), alternatives that minimize ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal shall be selected. In situations where ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal in such areas cannot be avoided, all conditions specified in the agreements/permits of the participating State and/or Federal resource agencies shall be followed to minimize negative impacts to State and/or Federally listed animals and plants and their habitats during implementation of the conservation practices.</p>
2. Temporal Limitations on Construction	<p>The timing of project construction shall take into consideration wildlife usage in the project area. The construction season for activities carried out under the proposed Program shall be limited to between April 15 and October 15. Exceptions and/or further restrictions to this general timeframe include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revegetation may continue between October 30 and November 30, (some earthmoving associated with preparation of the site for revegetation may occur within this time frame, but only as necessary for revegetation efforts).• Work in upland areas may begin on April 15.• For invasive species removal in upland and riparian habitat, work may continue until December 31, if no known species occurrences are documented within the past two years. If historical information is not available for the site, protocol levels surveys will be conducted in the area to determine presence or absence of listed species prior to the onset of work. If listed species are present (or assumed present based on habitat), a Service-approved individual will be present during work activities. All work during the wet season will be completed by non-mechanized hand tools. Herbicide application will be hand-painted and carefully applied during non-windy days with no rain forecasted within 3-5 days.• If working within 200 feet of established riparian vegetation (or other special status bird potential nesting habitats) and/or if constructing a

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sediment and/or water control basin, work may not begin until after August 1. If construction must occur during this period, a qualified individual approved by USFWS and/or CDFG shall conduct pre-construction surveys for bird nests or bird nesting activity in the project area. If any active nests or nesting behaviors are found (for species other than starlings and house sparrows), an exclusion zone of 75 feet shall be established to protect nesting birds (200 ft. for raptors) and maintained until the qualified individual (approved by USFWS and/or CDFG) verifies that birds have fledged or nest is abandoned. If any listed or sensitive bird species are identified, CDFG must be notified prior to further action. Take of active bird nests is prohibited. The NRCS and RCD may request exemptions to this requirement from CDFG on a project-by-project basis.

- If suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander or the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander occurs in the project area, construction activities shall begin after April 15.
- If potential habitat for the marbled murrelet occurs in the project area, work shall either begin after September 15 or the NRCS/RCD shall implement sound reduction measures to ensure that activities do not significantly raise noise levels above ambient levels.
- If potential habitat for the Mount Hermon June beetle is present in the project area, construction activities shall begin after August 15 (unless USFWS gives prior approval to the NRCS/RCD in response to their pre-construction notification to begin work earlier than August 15).
- If least Bell's vireos are discovered in Santa Cruz County during the life of the Program and are potentially present in the project area, construction activities shall begin after August 31 (Note: USFWS would notify NRCS/RCD if least Bell's vireo are discovered in Santa Cruz County during the life of the Program).

Work beyond the allowed construction season end date may be authorized following consultation with CDFG, USFWS, ACOE, NOAA Fisheries, and Santa Cruz County. Any proposed winter grading (i.e., for any grading between October 30 and April 15), associated with construction work that extended beyond October 15, shall be subject to approval by Environmental Planning staff. Additional erosion control measures, as described below under **Conditions for Erosion Control**, shall be implemented for work conducted during the winter period (generally defined as October 15 through April 15). These measures shall be complete and in place by October 15.

Where habitat for other Federal and/or State listed species not addressed above is identified on and/or adjacent to the project work site, construction and activities that may disturb the breeding, feeding, mating and sheltering of these species shall be limited to the maximum extent feasible to avoid potential impacts.

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<p>3. Limitation on Earthmoving and Vegetation Removal (Site Disturbance)</p>	<p>In addition to the limitations on the amount of grading that can be performed, as specified for each applicable project-type in Exhibit B, the following conditions apply to projects involving earthmoving and site disturbance:</p> <p>Disturbance to existing grades and vegetation shall be limited to the actual site of the conservation project and necessary access routes. Consistent with General Plan/LCP Policy 5.10.3, vistas from public roads and vista points shall be protected by minimizing disruption of landforms and aesthetic character caused by grading operations and/or vegetation. In many cases, project activities will utilize existing staging areas. In areas where new staging areas must be created, the size of the staging area including access roads shall be less than 0.25 acres.</p> <p>Provisions of the Santa Cruz County Grading Ordinance (Chapter 16.20) shall be followed. Finished grades shall not be steeper than 2:1 side slopes unless pre-construction condition is so steep that site conditions prohibit a 2:1 slope on the final grade. Placement of temporary access roads, staging areas, and other facilities shall avoid and limit disturbance to habitat as much as possible. Any proposed winter grading (i.e., for any grading between October 15 and April 15), associated with construction work that extended beyond October 30, shall be subject to approval by Environmental Planning staff.</p> <p>Even though some authorized practices have grading limits greater than 1,000 cubic yards, in no case shall grading amounts exceed 1,000 cubic yards in areas within the Coastal Zone designated as Scenic Areas (as indicated on the County GIS maps).</p> <p>Installed practices shall be made to look as natural as possible and aesthetically pleasing when visible in the public viewshed (by using curvilinear shapes, natural undulations matching the surrounding landform, avoiding hard/constructed structures, using endemic vegetation, etc.). Disturbance of native shrubs, woody perennials or tree removal on the streambank or stream channel shall be avoided or minimized to the fullest possible extent. If trees over 6" dbh (diameter at breast height) are to be removed, they shall be replaced at a 3:1 ratio and maintained and monitored until established (unless the species readily replaces itself, e.g., Alder, or unless the site is being restored to historical or other designated habitat.). If riparian vegetation will be disturbed, it shall be replaced with similar and/or native riparian species (see discussion below under <i>Revegetation and Removal of Exotic Species and Revegetation of the Project Area and Removal of Exotic Plants</i>). As much as possible, project activities shall avoid thinning out stands of riparian vegetation to minimize potential for increased cowbird predation and minimize loss of canopy cover. If vegetation removal is required in or around stands greater than 0.5 acres, riparian vegetation shall be cleared by hand, leaving as much as possible of the root wad and base of plants intact (unless the project involves removal of exotic invasives such as <i>Arundo donax</i> or similar exotics that</p>
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	<p>reproduce from cuttings or resprout). During or following completion of construction, poles and branches shall be replanted on banks. Subsequent maintenance of bio-technical plantings associated with implementation of the conservation practices may include hand labor to control spread outward of intended location (willows spreading into stream channel or cropped areas) or to maintain desired size (mowing of grasses to promote growth, pruning of willows to encourage dense cover rather than open woodland for bank protection, etc.).</p> <p>If potential wetlands are identified in the project area, wetland delineations shall be performed during the site evaluation stage of planning to assist in avoiding impacts to wetlands. The methodology for conducting delineations under the proposed program has been developed in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For potential wetlands in the Coastal Zone, the Coastal Commission's definition of a wetland shall be used to avoid potential impacts¹.</p> <p>Implementation of practices shall minimize all potential contributions of sediment to waterways. To the greatest extent possible, excavated materials shall be re-integrated on site. In the rare situations where excavated material is not used in the implementation of the practice it shall be removed and placed at sites that are not within riparian areas, wetlands, and/or the Federally identified floodway and/or floodplain. Any fill placed within the one hundred year floodplain shall be placed in a manner necessary to ensure there will be no rise in the base flood elevation and no flood related off site impacts. This "no rise" condition shall be verified by a registered civil engineer.</p> <p>Upon completion of grading, slope protection of all disturbed sites shall be provided prior to the end of the construction season through a combination of permanent vegetative treatment, mulching, geotextiles, and/or rock² (where the preference is for "soft" materials, such as vegetation, woody debris, etc., as opposed to "hard" materials, such as concrete, gabions, large rock, etc.).</p>
4. Limitations on Construction Equipment	<p>The NRCS and RCD shall ensure that the use and/or storage of petroleum-powered equipment shall be accomplished in a manner to prevent the potential release of petroleum materials into waters of the state (Fish and Game Code 5650). All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.</p> <p>The following precautionary measures shall be adhered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All excavation and grading activities shall be scheduled for, and will

¹ The Coastal Commission considers a wetland to be any area that is wet enough long enough to support a preponderance of hydrophytic vegetation or to result in soil that is predominantly hydric. In other words, only one of the three primary indicators of wetlands need be demonstrated for an area to be identified as a wetland (California Code of Regulations, Section 13577).

² A list of preferred species for revegetation is included in Exhibits E and F

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	<p>occur during, dry weather periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A contained area shall be designated for equipment storage, short-term maintenance, and refueling. It shall be located at least 100-feet from all water bodies. If site conditions (property size) make this 100-foot distance infeasible, these activities shall occur at the maximum distance possible from aquatic areas. • Vehicles shall be inspected for leaks and repaired immediately. • Leaks, drips and other spill shall be cleaned up immediately to avoid soil or groundwater contamination. • Major vehicle maintenance and washing shall be done in a manner that protects the environment (at a minimum on a paved surface where all wash water, drippings, runoff, etc. is collected and properly disposed, and preferably offsite). • All spent fluids (including motor oil, radiator coolant, and/or other fluids) and used vehicle batteries shall be collected, stored, and recycled as hazardous waste off site. • All construction debris and sediments (if sediments are not incorporated on site) shall be properly disposed. Plans shall indicate the approved disposal site. • Dry cleanup methods (i.e. absorbent materials, cat litter, and/or rags) shall be used whenever possible. If water is used, the minimal amount required to keep dust levels down is used. • Spilled dry materials shall be swept up immediately. • All questionable motor oil, coolant, transmission fluid, and hydraulic fluid hoses, fittings, and/or seals on construction equipment shall be replaced. All mechanical equipment shall be inspected on a daily basis to ensure there are no motor oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, and/or coolant leaks. All leaks shall be repaired in the equipment staging area or other suitable location (away from watercourses) prior to resumption of construction activity. • Hydraulic fluids in mechanical equipment working within the active stream channel shall not contain organophosphate esters. • During construction the operator shall not dump any trash and/or construction debris into the wetted channel; all trash and/or construction debris shall be collected and properly disposed. • During the project activities, all trash and food that may attract potential predators of salmonids (e.g. raccoons, piscivores, etc.) shall be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of daily. • When working in and/or near fish-bearing streams³, or their tributaries, oil absorbent and spill containment materials shall be located on site
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³ A "fish-bearing stream" is defined as a stream located within the range of the listed species (Central California Coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) Coho, the CCC steelhead, and South Central Coast ESU Steelhead) and/or designated critical habitat for these salmonids. The County of Santa Cruz and CDFG fisheries experts prepared a GIS-based summary of the existing information on salmonid distribution in Santa Cruz County streams "Steelhead and Coho Salmon Distribution", County of Santa Cruz, May, 2004. The NRCS and

	<p>when mechanical equipment is in operation. If a spill occurs, (1) no additional work shall occur in-channel until mechanical equipment has been inspected and the leak has been prepared, (2) the spill has been contained, and (3) the CDFG and NOAA Fisheries are contacted to evaluate the impacts of the spill.</p> <p>Heavy equipment shall not be used in flowing or standing water, except to cross a stream or pond to access the work site. In fish-bearing streams or their tributaries, if it is necessary to repeatedly cross the stream (i.e. more than once prior to and once following completion of construction activities) with heavy equipment to access a work site, a temporary culvert crossing with clean gravel backfill, or other appropriate temporary crossing structure shall be installed and utilized. When possible, NRCS/RCD shall use existing ingress or egress points and/or perform work from the top of the creek banks. Use of heavy equipment shall be avoided in a channel bottom with rocky or cobbled substrate. If access to the work site requires heavy equipment to travel on a rocky or cobbled substrate, a rubber tire loader/backhoe is the preferred vehicle. Only if this option has been determined infeasible shall the use of tracked vehicles be allowed. The amount of time this equipment is stationed, working, or traveling within the creek bed shall be minimized. When heavy equipment is used, woody debris and vegetation shall be replaced to a similar density with native species. No staging shall occur in or directly adjacent to wetlands. If it is not feasible to completely avoid movement of construction vehicles through wetlands, whenever possible rubber tired vehicles shall be used or a protective mat shall be laid down prior to moving across these areas.</p>
<p>5. Revegetation of the Project Area and Removal of Exotic Plants</p>	<p>The project area vegetation shall be restored to pre-construction condition or better (including as directed by project specific success criteria), and shall be maintained until this goal and/or project specific success criteria have been met and plants have become established. Any stream bank area left barren of vegetation as a result of the implementation or maintenance of the practices shall be restored by seeding, replanting, or other agreed upon means with native trees, shrubs, and/or grasses prior to November 30 of the project year. Soil exposed as a result of construction, soil above rock riprap, and interstitial spaces between rocks shall be revegetated by live planting, seed casting, mulching or hydroseeding with non-invasive grass species prior to the close of the construction season (See Exhibits E and F for full list of preferred species for revegetation).</p> <p>If native vegetation is disturbed during project implementation, the native plant community shall be restored to pre-construction condition or better.</p> <p>Native plants characteristic of the local habitat type shall be the preferred alternative for revegetation, however non-invasive non-native species may be</p>

RCD will utilize this map during the initial project assessment to determine if the project is taking place in a fish-bearing stream.

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	<p>used if determined, during project planning, to be more feasible and/or resource protective (see Exhibits E and F for the full list of approved native and non-native plant species and Exhibit G for prohibited species). If the native local ecotype is not commercially available, plants of the same species but different ecotype may be used, unless that species is identified in Exhibit F as being susceptible to genetic, pathogen or insect contamination. If the native local ecotype is not commercially available and/or that species is identified as susceptible to genetic, pathogen or insect contamination, another native species may be used in its place. Revegetation of a native community may not occur if there is a concern that nursery stock will introduce diseases into a susceptible community and/or if the community itself can regenerate (e.g. Alders). In this case, an annual grass species may be used for one-year erosion control (see Exhibits E and F for full list of approved species for use in revegetation efforts).</p> <p>Inspections for the purpose of assessing the survival and growth of revegetated areas and the presence of exposed soil shall be conducted by the NRCS/RCD until vegetation is established and the project is functioning as intended, and success criteria have been met. Revegetation success shall be documented in the Annual Report provided to the County and participating agencies each year. If the status reviews reveal that the vegetative plantings are not becoming well established an adaptive management plan that provides erosion control and habitat value at least equivalent to that which existed on the site prior to the project, and which considers cost and feasibility, shall be implemented.</p> <p>The spread or introduction of invasive plant species shall be avoided to the maximum extent possible by avoiding areas with established native vegetation during project activities wherever possible, restoring disturbed areas of native communities with native species where appropriate (as described above), and post-project monitoring and control of invasive species being treated as part of the project. Removal of invasive exotic species shall be strongly recommended. Mechanical removal (hand tools, weed whacking, hand pulling, brush raking) of exotics shall be done in preparation for establishment of plantings. To the greatest extent possible, vegetation shall be removed by hand. To the extent possible, revegetation should be implemented at the same time removal of exotic vegetation occurs. All plant material will be disposed of in a manner that will not allow re-establishment to occur.</p>
6. Conditions for Erosion Control	<p>Earthmoving activities shall be completed prior to October 30. Work beyond October 30 (with the exception of revegetation until November 30) shall be specifically authorized in advance by the participating agencies, as per General Condition #2 above. Any proposed winter grading (i.e., for any grading between October 15 and April 15), associated with construction work that extended beyond October 30, shall be subject to approval by Environmental Planning staff. All inactive areas (defined as a five-day period) shall have all necessary soil stabilization practices in place two days after identification of</p>

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	<p>inactivity and/or before a rain event, whichever comes first. All erosion control shall meet specifications in County of Santa Cruz Erosion Control Ordinance Chapter 16.22.</p> <p>Erosion control and sediment detention devices shall be incorporated into the project design and implemented at the time of construction. These devices shall be in place prior to October 15 and the onset of rains for the purposes of minimizing fine sediment and sediment/water slurry input to flowing water, and of detaining water to retain sediment on-site. These devices shall be placed at all locations where the likelihood of sediment input exists. Sediment collected in these devices shall be disposed of away from the collection site and outside riparian areas and flood hazard areas.</p> <p>Streambanks, ground and/or soil (except for soil in agricultural fields) exposed as a result of construction, and soil above toe-rock shall be revegetated by live planting, seed casting, or hydroseeding prior to November 30 of the project year.</p> <p>All debris, sediment, rubbish, vegetation and/or other material removed from waterway shall be removed to a location where they shall not re-enter the waters of the state including wetlands.</p>
7. Limitations on Work in Streams, Wetlands, Floodplains, and Permanently Poned Areas	<p>If it is necessary to conduct work in or near a live stream, the workspace shall be isolated from flowing water to prevent sedimentation and turbidity. In those specific cases where it is deemed necessary to work in a flowing stream/creek, all the flowing water shall be temporarily diverted around the work site to maintain downstream flows during construction. Any temporary dam or other artificial obstruction constructed shall only be built from materials such as sandbags or clean gravel which will cause little or no siltation. Cofferdams and any stream diversion systems shall remain in place and functional throughout the construction period. If the coffer dams and/or stream diversion fail, they shall be repaired immediately. When construction is completed, the flow diversion structure shall be removed as soon as possible in a manner that shall allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. If dewatering in a fish-bearing stream is proposed as part of a project implemented under the permit coordination program, the NRCS/RCD shall comply with the terms and conditions outlined in the Biological Opinion issued for the Program, and any subsequent conditions, issued by NOAA Fisheries for this project.</p> <p>No creosote treated timbers shall be used for instream structures. No gabions or concrete shall be used in fish bearing streams. In non-fish-bearing streams they may be used above the high water mark only. If used, all concrete shall be allowed to cure for a minimum of 30 days before being exposed to stream water or water that may enter the stream, or all concrete shall be coated with a CDFG-approved concrete sealant. If sealant is used, water shall be excluded from the</p>

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	<p>site until the sealant is dry.</p> <p>The implementation and maintenance of projects shall not result in sediment delivery to a clean bottom of stream channel. A "clean" bottom is characterized by natural stream substrate (cobbles, gravel and small stones or similar to background conditions).</p> <p>If the substrate of a seasonal pond, creek, stream or water body is altered during work activities and the alteration is not the goal of the practice being implemented (i.e. channel stabilization), it shall be returned to approximate pre-construction conditions after the work is completed, unless NOAA Fisheries or CDFG requests during their annual pre-construction review of projects that other measures be implemented.</p> <p>All debris, sediment, rubbish, vegetation, and/or other material removed from the channel banks, channel bottom, and/or sediment basins shall be removed to a location where they shall not re-enter the waters of the state. All petroleum products, chemicals, silt, fine soils, and/or any substance or material deleterious to fish, plant, or bird life shall not be allowed to pass into, or be placed where it can pass into the waters of the State.</p> <p>Wetlands shall only be disturbed when part of a project that will enhance the value of the wetland.</p> <p>No project shall divert water flow from one watershed into another.</p> <p>Any fill moved and/or placed within the one hundred year floodplain (i.e., FEMA Zone A) shall be accomplished in a manner to ensure that the flood capacity of the stream is not altered (i.e. downstream properties would not be threatened by a higher likelihood of flooding). No fill shall be placed in the flood hazard area (i.e., FEMA Zones A or V or Floodway) unless it is accompanied by an analysis (by a Registered Civil Engineer) showing that there shall be no rise in the base flood elevation and no off-site impact. Such fill includes footings, supports, approaches, and other elements of bridges that are below the base flood elevation (BFE), as well as materials placed to protect those elements, such as rip-rap or concrete aprons.</p> <p>Projects carried out under the Master Permit program shall not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death. Practices that include impoundment of water shall be limited in size (embankment height and volume) and designed to meet geo-technical and engineering standards and regulations.</p>
8. Limitations on use of Herbicides	<p>Except as noted below, no pesticides or soil amendments shall be used in the streambed or bank to hasten or improve the growth of plantings. Soil amendments shall only be used when the establishment of new plants is</p>

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	<p>prohibited by poor soil conditions that cannot support new plantings. In most circumstances, organic amendments shall be used to ensure successful establishment of restoration vegetation associated with the practices. In situations where organic amendments will not guarantee adequate establishment of restoration vegetation, application rates for non-organic soil amendments shall be based on soil nutrient testing and shall utilize slow release or split applications to minimize leaching or runoff into water bodies. Use of soil amendments within 10 ft of a waterbody must be authorized in advance by CDFG.</p> <p>Where it is necessary to use herbicides to control established stands of exotics or to control the invasion of exotics into restoration plantings, the herbicides must be applied according to registered label conditions. Herbicides must be applied directly to plants and may not be spread upon any water or where they can leach into waterways in subsequent rains. Herbicides may be applied to control established stands of non-native species including <i>vinca</i>, ivy, and brooms. When herbicides are used near waterways an approved glyphosphate-based herbicide that is safe to use in or near aquatic habitats would be utilized.</p>
9. Special Status Species Protection (CEQA Mitigation I)	<p>In order to mitigate for potential incidental loss of special status species, to comply with the Federal and State endangered species acts and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to minimize impacts on wildlife habitat, in addition to implementing the avoidance measures, best management practices, and minimization techniques given in the program description, the NRCS/RCD shall ensure that the following mitigations are implemented for all projects carried out under the Countywide Permit Coordination Program and authorized under the Master Permit:</p> <p>I.(A) Prior to exercise of this Master Permit, documentation shall be submitted for review and approval by Environmental Planning staff certifying that all required state and federal approvals have been obtained. Copies of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Incidental Take Permit and Biological Opinion, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 7 consultation, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Stream Alteration Agreement and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Water Quality Certification permit shall be submitted.</p> <p>I.(B) Plans for individual projects and practices shall incorporate all conditions and recommendations of the approvals mentioned in I.(A) above. All recommended methods to lessen "take" of protected plants, animals and habitats, including avoidance, shall be incorporated into the design of each practice or project completed under this permit.</p> <p>I.(C) Each specific project area disturbed by a project activity shall be monitored for increase in non-native plant cover. Non-native, invasive</p>

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	<p>plants that have colonized the area or expanded shall be removed using BMPs designed to prevent re-establishment, unless the site is adjacent to an established, existing infestation that cannot reasonably be prevented from spreading on to the site without constant removal efforts.</p> <p>I.(D) Revegetation shall be limited to plantings from the lists of preferred plant species given in Exhibits E and F, unless certain native plants that do not appear on these lists can be collected from the site, propagated from on-site plants or plants very close to the site, or grown from seed collected from the site or plants very close to the site. Further, native plant materials that are grown at or delivered from a nursery shall be closely inspected for disease and pests prior to use.</p> <p>I.(E) Revegetation and non-native plant removal programs shall be monitored for three to five years and until success criteria are reached. If information has been submitted by a qualified individual that demonstrates that certain characteristics of the site and/or the revegetation plan indicate that the revegetation may be established more quickly than five years, and if success criteria are reached after only three years, then three years of periodic monitoring may be adequate.</p> <p>Revegetation success is defined as the site being restored to at least the same condition as existed prior to the project, or being restored to a better condition if identified success criteria for a particular project require as much. Measures of this success criterion may include: percent native plant cover, percent non native invasive cover, number of native and non native species present, plant health, and areal extent of shade provided to adjacent waters by overhanging vegetation.</p> <p>In addition, prior to the onset of activities that could result in the disturbance of habitat and/or individuals of any listed/special status species, all project workers including NRCS/ RCD staff and growers/landowners and/or their employees/representatives shall be given information on the listed species in the project area, a brief overview of the species' natural history, the protection afforded the species by the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts, and the specific protective measures to be followed during implementation of the practices.</p>
<p>10. Floodwater Conveyance Patterns (CEQA Mitigation II)</p>	<p>To ensure that there is no detrimental impact from conservation practices/projects on conveyance of floodwater and the pattern of flooding, prior to the placement of fill within the floodplain or floodway the NRCS/RCD shall provide analysis from a Registered Civil Engineer or hydrologist for review and approval of Environmental Planning staff. The analysis shall show that the practice/project will not decrease storage of floodwaters, modify conveyance, increase base flood level, and/or otherwise create an adverse impact on the site, upstream or downstream.</p>

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11. West Nile Virus Vector Control	To minimize the spread of West Nile Virus, consultation with the County Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District is required for any water control structure that will potentially hold water longer than 5-days.
12. Height Limits for Structures in Front Yard Setback Areas	Pursuant to County Code Chapter 13.10, no structure (e.g., retaining walls, bridge railings, fences, etc.) within a front yard setback area (which generally along the side of the parcel facing a street or road) may exceed 36" in height, unless in the case of bridges, a higher railing is required by the County Fire Marshall. Exceptions to the height limit for front yard fences in agricultural zones are provided for County Code subsection 13.10.525(c)3.
13. Building Permit Needed for All Bridges	A County building permit is needed for the installation/construction of any new bridge, however bridges installed/constructed under the Master Permit program are exempt from further environmental review and/or the need to obtain a Riparian Exception (both of which would normally be required for a new bridge), because the Master Permit has already undergone environmental (CEQA) review and the Master Permit includes a blanket Riparian Exception.
14. Coastal Commission Jurisdiction (i.e. State Tidelands) Restrictions	This Master Permit does not apply to projects conducted within Coastal Commission retained coastal permitting jurisdiction (e.g., all State tidelands, including any lands lying below the mean high tide line, submerged lands, filled areas that previously were below the mean high tide line, coastal lagoons/estuaries, public trust lands, etc.). Any qualifying environmental enhancement projects in these areas, while encouraged, shall require separate Coastal Commission approval.

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EXHIBIT B:

Conservation Practices Eligible Under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e., Master Permit), with Allowed Dimensions and Project-Specific Conditions, and Summary of Tier System

(NOTE: Numbers in parentheses indicate the practice number as referenced in the *NRCS Field Office Technical Guide*)

1. Access Roads (Improvement) (560)* (NOTE: Access road improvements typically involve multiple installations spread out over a long reach of road.)	Improvement of an existing road used for moving livestock, produce, and/or equipment to provide access for proper, property management while controlling runoff to prevent erosion and maintain or improve water quality. An example of this practice might include re-grading, outsloping, or the addition of a rolling dip to a road so that water is less erosive as it travels across the road. This practice may also be used for repair, removal, or addition of culverts from non-fish bearing ¹ streams associated with access road improvements. Ditch relief culverts that discharge onto slopes over 30% require additional measures. This practice is used only on existing roads. Some examples of practices from the California Department of Fish and Game, California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual that could be utilized during implementation of the Access Road (Improvement) practice includes Waterbars (p. VII-96).
<i>Dimensions²</i>	<u>Length</u> : Average: 1,000 linear feet of work spread out over 2 miles; Max: 10,000 linear feet of work spread out over 12 miles. <u>Width</u> : Average: 30'; Max: 30'. <u>Area</u> : Average: 0.8 acres; Max: 4.5 acres. <u>Volume³</u> : Average: 750 cu. yards; Max: 7,500 cu. yards (or 1,000 cu. yards in Coastal Zone Scenic Areas).
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	Road improvements in Santa Cruz County are modeled on the "Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads: A Guide for planning, designing, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining and closing wildland roads," by William Weaver and Danny Hagens. This manual contains descriptions of sound methods and designs to improve and maintain rural roads. Proper road planning, construction

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	and maintenance of roads can correct problems associated with poor road placement and design that cause excess runoff, and erosion leading to many kinds of problems including polluted water supplies, increased flooding, landslides, destruction of fish habitat, and loss of vegetation and soil. Improvements to existing access roads under this practice shall not be carried out for the purpose of accommodating future development.
2. Planting (342, 612, 422, 391)	Planting of vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes (see Exhibits E, F and G for lists of preferred and prohibited species for revegetation), on highly erodible or critically eroding areas (does not include tree planting mainly for wood products). This practice is used to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources. Plants may take up more of the nutrients in the soil, reducing the amount that can be washed into surface waters or leached into ground water. During grading, seedbed preparation, seeding, and mulching, quantities of sediment and associated chemicals may be washed into surface waters prior to plant establishment.
<i>Dimensions</i>	<u>Area</u> : Average: 1 acre; Max: 5 acres. <u>Volume</u> ³ : Average: 700 cu. yards; Max: 1,000 cu. yards.
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	When implementing or maintaining a critical area planting above the "ordinary high water mark" ⁴ , a filter fabric fence, fiber rolls and/or rice or straw bales shall be utilized, if needed, to keep sediment from flowing into the adjacent water body. When vegetation is sufficiently mature to provide erosion control, it may be appropriate to remove the fence, fiber rolls and/or rice/straw bales. Periodic review by NRCS/RCD shall occur until the critical area planting is established to control erosion.
3. Stream Habitat Improvement and Management(395)	Improvement of a stream channel to create new fish habitat or to enhance an existing habitat. The practice is used to improve or enhance aquatic habitat for fish in degraded streams, channels, and ditches by providing shade, controlling sediment, and restoring pool and riffle stream characteristics. Pools and riffles are formed in degraded stream sections through the strategic placement

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of logs, root wad, or natural rocks that reduces the flow velocity through the area. Coarse-grained sediments settle, reducing the quantity of sediment delivered downstream. The dissolved oxygen content may be increased, improving the stream's assimilative capacity. This practice may also be used for removal or modification of fish barriers such as flashboard dams or logjams. The modification of flashboard dams may involve cutting a notch in the dam to allow for fish passage. Complete removal of flashboard dams would also be covered under the program.

This practice may be used for the removal or modification of logjams that present a complete barrier to all life stages of anadromous fish passage. If the logjam does not act as a complete barrier, logjam removal may be implemented no more than two times annually under the program, but only if the following circumstance exists: In situations where water is actively or potentially deflecting water to a bank, threatening further erosion, bank failure, destruction of conservation practices installed to stabilize the bank, or threatening damage to life and housing, the logjam may be modified to minimize this threat.

This practice may be used to remove culverts that pose barriers to fish passage and replacement of an existing culvert with a crossing that improves fish passage. This practice may also be used to remove hardened crossings that pose barriers to salmonid passage such as culverts and simple fords that do not have complicated associated resource issues, and replace them with bridges, bottomless arch culverts, or embedded culverts that do allow for fish passage.

While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving the fish stream improvement practices. Dewatering a portion of a stream during construction would involve isolating the work area using temporary structures such as cofferdams and the pumping of water around the worksite in order to maintain flows downstream.

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	<p>The Fish Stream Improvement practice will be designed and implemented in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Game's <i>California Salmonid Stream Habitat and Restoration Manual</i> or in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and CDFG. Some examples of the practices that could be utilized during implementation of the Fish Stream Improvement practice include Digger Logs (p. VII-26 of the manual), Spider Logs (p. VII-27), and Log, Root Wad, and Boulder Combinations (p. VII-28).</p>
<i>Dimensions</i>	<p><u>Maximum Length:</u> 1 mile with multiple structures at multiple bank locations.</p> <p><u>Maximum dimensions for a logjam to be modified:</u> 30 ft by 50 ft (across channel).</p> <p><u>Maximum dimensions for a flashboard dam to be modified or removed:</u> 20 ft by 60 ft (across channel)</p> <p><u>Maximum dimensions for hardened crossing (fords) be removed:</u> 20 ft by 100 ft (across channel)</p> <p><u>Maximum and total area to be dewatered will not exceed 300 ft over the one mile maximum.</u></p>
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	<p>The Fish Stream Improvement conservation practice will be designed and implemented in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Game's <i>California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual</i> or in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and CDFG.</p> <p>No chemically-treated timbers shall be used for grade or channel stabilization structures, bulkheads or other instream structures.</p>
4. Grade Stabilization Structure (410) <i>(In non-fish bearing streams, primarily for gully repair)*</i>	<p>Installation of a structure built into a gully to control the grade and prevent head cutting in natural or artificial channels. For the purposes of the Master Permit program, this practice will not be installed in fish bearing streams and would primarily be used for gully repair. This practice refers to rock, timber, or vegetative structures, such as a brush mattress, placed to slow water velocities above and</p>

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	below the structure, resulting in reduced erosion. This practice also involves earthmoving to reshape the area impacted by the gully. This will decrease the yield of sediment and sediment-attached substances and improve downstream water quality. An example of a practice from the CDFG California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual that could be utilized during implementation of the Grade Stabilization practice is Brush Mattressing (p. VII-79).
<i>Dimensions</i>	<p><u>Length</u>: Average: 3 to 4 structures per 500' of gully, Max: 10 structures per 1,000' of gully.</p> <p><u>Area</u>: Average: 0.5 acres; Max: 1.5 acres</p> <p><u>Volume</u>³: Max: 30 cu. yards per structure; 300 cu. yards total.</p> <p><u>Flow Rate</u>: Max: 300 cfs in the pipe.</p>
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	<p>This practice will not be used in fish-bearing streams and will primarily be used for the repair of gullies.</p> <p>Construction and maintenance of any practice that results in a change in volume of flow in streams that support a fishery are not covered under this program. Construction and maintenance of Grade Stabilization Structures in streams or creeks that support a fishery are not covered under this program. Projects seeking to implement conservation practices in those circumstances must seek individual permits from appropriate public agencies.</p> <p>Grouted rock may be used for implementation of the Grade Stabilization practice at the head of gullies. Use of grouted rock will be minimized. Grouted rock would not be used on the bed or bank of a waterway. An example of a typical design from the CDFG California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual that could be utilized during implementation of the Grade Stabilization practice is Brush Mattressing (p. VII-79).</p>
5. Grassed Waterway (412)	Establishment of a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and expected velocities, and establishment of suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff. This practice may reduce the erosion in a concentrated flow area, such as a gully. This

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	<p>may result in the reduction of sediment and substances delivered to receiving waters. Vegetation may act as a filter in removing some of the sediment delivered to the waterway, although this is not typically the primary function of a grassed waterway. Grassed waterways may be used to reduce the erosive force of runoff from agricultural lands into riparian or wetland areas or into a sediment basin. Grading and seedbed preparation may result in some short-term soil loss prior to establishment of vegetative cover.</p>
<i>Dimensions</i>	<p><u>Length</u>: Average: 1,000'; Max: 2,000'. <u>Width</u>: Average: 20'; Max: 40'. <u>Area</u>: Average: 0.5 acre; Max: 2 acre. <u>Volume</u>³: Average: 1,000 cu. yards; Max: 4,500 cu. yards (except in Coastal Zone Scenic Areas where the maximum grading allowed is 1,000 cu. yards). <u>Flow Rate</u>: Max: 150 cfs.</p>
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	<p>Grassed waterways are designed to convey the runoff associated with the contributory area along a prescribed slope to avoid erosion caused by the concentrated flow. The waterway may not divert water out of the natural sub watershed.</p>
6. Obstruction Removal (500)⁵	<p>Removal and disposal of unwanted structures from waterways including cars, large appliances, and garbage (items that are anthropogenic and not natural to the system). Large objects such as cars and appliances would be removed unless their removal would result in a (net) detrimental effect. For example, cars will not be removed if the action would result in disturbance to a significant area (beyond the scope of this program), which could result if it was discovered that multiple cars were stacked behind one another under a stream bank. Structures would be removed when the stream channel is dry or during the lowest flows to minimize impacts. While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving removal of large objects such as cars and appliances. Dewatering a portion of a stream during construction would involve isolating the work area using temporary structures such as cofferdams and the pumping</p>

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	of water around the worksite in order to maintain flows downstream.
<i>Dimensions</i> ⁵	<u>Length</u> : Max: 50'. <u>Area</u> : Average: 10' x 15'; Max: 0.2 acre.
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	Wherever possible, hand labor will be used, however, heavy equipment such as mechanical excavators may be employed in some projects, particularly where the project requires removal of larger items such as cars and appliances. Large objects removed from the area will be lifted out of the area, ensuring the obstruction is kept upright during removal and will not be pulled, dragged, or pushed to minimize potential impacts to the aquatic and terrestrial habitats. If the obstruction is easily accessible and/or an access road is adjacent to the work site, equipment such as a boom would be used to lift the obstruction out of the area. Additional limitations on use of construction equipment are described in the General Project Conditions under Limitations on Construction Equipment .
7. Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643)	Restoring and conserving rare or declining native vegetated communities and associated wildlife species. This practice is used to restore land or aquatic habitats degraded by human activity; provide habitat for rare and declining wildlife species by restoring and conserving native plant communities; increase native plant community diversity; management of unique or declining native habitats (see Exhibits E, F and G for lists of preferred and prohibited species for revegetation). This practice may be used to remove invasive plant species in sensitive resource areas in order to improve the quality of the adjacent aquatic habitat. This practice may also be used to manage fuel loads in sensitive habitats and allows treatment and maintenance of invasive species and noxious weeds, as well as revegetation of a treated area.
<i>Dimensions</i>	<u>Length</u> : Average: 500'; Max: 1 mile. <u>Area</u> : Average: 1 acre; Max: 5 acres. <u>Volume</u> ³ : Average: 50 cu. yards; Max: 1,000 cu. yards.
<i>Additional Practice-</i>	When restoring or maintaining a rare or declining native

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<i>Specific Protection Measures</i>	<p>plant community or wildlife habitat adjacent to and above the “ordinary high water mark”⁴ of a water body, a filter fabric fence, fiber rolls and/or rice/straw bales shall be utilized, if needed, to keep sediment from flowing into the adjacent water body. When vegetation is sufficiently mature to provide erosion control, it may be appropriate to remove the fence, fiber rolls and/or rice or straw bales. Periodic review by NRCS/RCD shall occur until the native plant community or wildlife habitat planting is established to control erosion.</p>
8. Sediment Basins (350) [with or without water control (638)]*	<p>Construction of basin(s) to collect and store debris or sediment. Sediment basins will trap sediment, sediment associated materials, and other debris and prevent undesirable deposition on bottomlands and in waterways and streams. Basins are generally located at the base of agricultural lands adjacent to natural drainage or riparian areas. Sediment basins shall not be constructed in a stream channel or other permanent water bodies. This practice may also involve designing the sediment basin to control water volumes leaving a site and releasing the water at a natural flow rate. If water control were recommended by the NRCS, an earth embankment or a combination ridge and channel design constructed across the slope and minor watercourses would be implemented to form a sediment trap and water detention basin. The practice does not treat the source of sediment but provides a barrier to reduce degradation of surface water downstream. Due to the detention of runoff in the basin, there is an increased opportunity for soluble materials to be leached toward the ground water. Basins may also increase groundwater recharge. The design of spillways and outlet works will include water control structures to prevent scouring at discharge point into natural drainage.</p>
<i>Dimensions</i>	<p><u>Area</u>: Average: 0.1 acre; Max: 1 acre. <u>Volume</u>³: Average: 400 cu. yards; Max: 4,000 cu. yards (compacted embankment); in Coastal Zone Scenic Areas no more than 1,000 cu. yards total grading volume. <u>Impoundment Volume</u>: Average: 0.5 acre-foot; Max: 2 acre-feet. <u>Impoundment Structure</u>: Average: 6 ft embankment measured from the lowest point in the basin to the spillway</p>

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	at a 2:1 maximum slope; Max: 6 ft – 10 ft embankment measured from the lowest point in the basin to the spillway at a 2:1 maximum slope ⁶ .
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	<p>Where water and sediment control basins create marshy conditions and attract nesting birds and other wildlife, maintenance may occur only after August 1st. If construction must occur during this period, a qualified individual approved by USFWS and/or CDFG will conduct pre-construction surveys for bird nests or bird nesting activity in the project area. Bird nesting sites shall be avoided as described above in Exhibit A (#2) <i>General Project Conditions, Temporal Limitations on Construction</i>. If the project has the potential to create standing water for longer than five (5) consecutive days, the County Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District shall be consulted.</p> <p>Sediment basins shall not be constructed in a stream channel or other permanent water bodies. The work may involve grading along one shore of the stream to remove gullies or eroded banks prior to building a streamside basin. Where construction of a sediment basin includes a pipe or structure that empties into a stream (underground outlet), an energy dissipater shall be installed to reduce bank scour.</p>
9. Streambank Protection (580)	Use of vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, or estuaries against scour and erosion. "Bioengineered" solutions using vegetation and soft materials (as opposed to concrete and rip rap, for example) are the preferred options where conditions are favorable for their use. The banks of streams and water bodies are protected by vegetation to reduce sediment loads causing downstream damage and pollution and to improve the stream for fish and wildlife habitat as well as protect adjacent land from erosion damage. Examples of this practice may include willow sprigging, brush matting, and live vegetative crib walls. This practice can be applied to natural or excavated channels where the stream banks are susceptible to erosion from the action of water or debris or to damage from livestock or vehicular traffic. The streambed grade must be controlled before

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	<p>most permanent types of bank protection can be considered feasible. Some examples of practices from the California Department of Fish and Game's <i>California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual</i> that could be utilized during implementation of the Streambank Protection practice include Log Cribbing (p. VII-68), Live Vegetative Crib Wall (p. VII-69), Logbank Armor (p. VII-70), Riprap (p. VII-65), Native Material Revetment (p. VII-75), Willow Sprigging (p. VII-77), Brush Mattressing (p. VII-77), and Trenching (p. VII-80). While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving implementation of streambank protection measures. Dewatering a portion of a stream during construction would involve isolating the work area using temporary structures such as cofferdams and the pumping of water around the worksite in order to maintain flows downstream.</p>
<i>Dimensions</i>	<p><u>Length</u>: Vegetation Average: 200'; Vegetation Max: 2,000'. Rock Max: 200' contiguous rock protection and 500' of non-contiguous protection over 2,000' of bank. <u>Width</u>: Vegetation Average: 20'; Vegetation Max: 50'. Rock Average: 4'; Rock Max: 5'. <u>Area</u>: Average Vegetation: 0.1; Max Vegetation: 2.5 acre. Rock Protection Max: 0.1 acre <u>Volume</u>³: Average Vegetation: 500 cu. yards; Max Vegetation: 4,000 cu. Yards⁷ (or 1,000 cu. yards in all Coastal Zone Scenic Areas). Average Rock: 100 cu. yards; Max Rock⁸: 800 cu. yards. <u>Flow Rate</u>: Vegetation Max: 2,000 cfs instream.</p>
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	<p>No fill will be placed in the flood hazard area unless it is accompanied by an analysis (by a civil engineer) showing that there will be no rise in the base elevation and no off-site impact.</p>
10. Stream Channel Stabilization (584)	<p>Stabilization of the channel of a stream with suitable structures. "Bioengineered" solutions using vegetation and soft materials (as opposed to concrete and rip rap, for example) are the preferred options where conditions are favorable for their use. This practice applies to stream</p>

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	<p>channels undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation that cannot be reasonably controlled with upstream practices (establishment of vegetative protection, installation of bank protection, or by the installation of upstream water control measures). The design and installation of grade stabilization structures produce a stable streambed favorable to wildlife and riparian growth. The Master Permit program does not cover projects that involve installation of grade stabilization structures in fish bearing streams.</p> <p>In non-fish bearing streams, this practice may be utilized to remove accumulated sand or sediment that have caused the channel to become plugged due to a large storm event or bank failure. This practice would not be used in fish-bearing streams or for routine maintenance involving dredging of a waterway. This practice would be used to remove sediment that has accumulated behind a dam or as a result of a catastrophic event such as a flood, and would only be used once at a given location under this program.</p> <p>While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving installation of the stream channel stabilization practices. Dewatering a portion of a stream during construction would involve isolating the work area using temporary structures such as cofferdams and the pumping of water around the worksite in order to maintain flows downstream.</p>
<i>Dimensions</i>	<p><u>Length</u>: Average: 200'; Max: 2,000'.</p> <p><u>Width</u>: Average: 20'; Max: 100'.</p> <p><u>Area</u>: Average: 0.1 acre; Max: 4.5 acre.</p> <p><u>Volume</u>³: Average: 200 cu. yards; Max: 7,500 cu. yards (1,000 cu. yards in Coastal Zone Scenic Areas).</p> <p><u>Flow Rate</u>: Max: 400 cfs.</p>
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	<p>Sediment removal will not occur in fish-bearing streams. Sediment removal from non-fish bearing stream channels or ponds may occur if it will improve biological functioning of the stream and restore channel capacity. Sediment removal would occur as a one-time event and not a repeated maintenance practice. Sediment removal may not occur in a flowing stream or standing water.</p>

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	Sediment will not be stored in wetlands or waterways (including floodplains and floodways).
11. Stream Crossing (578)**	To provide access on a site where a in-stream barrier has been removed. If a culvert or ford has been removed, a bridge or other suitable crossing may be installed.
<i>Dimensions</i>	<p><u>Maximum bridge size to be installed:</u> Max.100 ft (across stream) with 20 ft wide deck (20 ft is what the County of Santa Cruz prefers for emergency vehicles but it's more likely that most bridges installed under the permit coordination program would not exceed 16 ft in width)</p> <p>*Maximum and total area to be dewatered will not exceed 300 ft over the one mile maximum.</p>
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	Crossings will be consistent with California Department of Fish and Game's "Culvert Criteria for Fish Passage" (May 2002) and National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region's "Guidelines for Salmonid Passage as Stream Crossings" (September, 2001). If dewatering in a fish-bearing stream is proposed as part of a project implemented under the permit coordination program, the NRCS/RCD will comply with the terms and conditions outlined in the Biological Opinion, and any subsequent conditions, issued by NOAA Fisheries for this project.
12. Structure for Water Control (587)*	Installation of a structure in an irrigation, drainage, or other water management system, including streams and gullies, that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, or maintains a desired water surface elevation, such as culverts, pipe drops or chutes within gullies, debris screens, etc. Structure for water control is used to replace or retrofit existing culverts that are either not functioning properly or are a barrier to fish passage. The placement of new culverts, when environmentally beneficial, is also covered. By controlling the velocity of water running through an area, this practice reduces erosion and prevents down cutting of stream channels. Culverts will be consistent with California Department of Fish and Game's "Culvert Criteria for Fish Passage" (April 2003) and National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region's "Guidelines for Salmonid Passage as Stream Crossings" (September, 2001).

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<i>Dimensions</i>	<u>Flow Rate</u> : 80 cfs
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	Crossings will be consistent with California Department of Fish and Game's " <i>Culvert Criteria for Fish Passage</i> " (May 2002) and National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region's " <i>Guidelines for Salmonid Passage as Stream Crossings</i> " (September, 2001). If dewatering in a fish-bearing stream is proposed as part of a project implemented under the permit coordination program, the NRCS/RCD will comply with the terms and conditions outlined in the Biological Opinion, and any subsequent conditions, issued by NOAA Fisheries for this project. If the project has the potential to create standing water for longer than five (5) consecutive days, the County Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District shall be consulted.
13. Underground Outlets (620)*	Installation of a conduit beneath the surface of the ground to collect surface water and convey it to a suitable outlet. This practice is typically, although not always, associated with a sediment basin (with or without water control). Excess surface water generated by farmland on steep terrain can be collected and conveyed to a sediment basin by installing pipe safely buried underground. Location, size, and number of inlets are determined to collect excess runoff and prevent erosive surface flow. This runoff is then discharged at sediment basin where high velocity runoff is calmed and suspended sediment is trapped prior to releasing water into natural drainage channel. The basin is designed to release water at a natural rate of flow.
<i>Dimensions</i>	<u>Length</u> : Max. in Riparian Areas: 50'. <u>Width</u> : Max. in Riparian Areas: 20'. <u>Area</u> : Max. in Riparian Areas: 1,000 sq. ft. <u>Volume</u> ³ : Max. in Riparian Areas: 10 cu. yards ⁹ . <u>Flow Rate</u> : Max. in Riparian Areas: 60 cfs.
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	If a pipe or structure that empties into a stream (underground outlet), a properly sized energy dissipater shall be installed to reduce bank scour and bank erosion.

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14. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645, 382, 614, 516)	<p>This practice will be utilized to create, restore, and/or enhance upland habitat for wildlife species. This practice may be used to install shelter, cover, and food, establish vegetation for shelter, food, and enable movement, and for manipulating vegetation to sustain optimal habitat conditions.</p> <p>This practice may include the creation of infrastructure to accomplish the intended purpose of the practice, including a livestock pipeline, fence, and watering facility.</p> <p>Use of a pipeline for conveying water from an existing source of supply to points of its use for livestock; to shift livestock to constructed waters sources and away from streams and lakes. This practice is designed to reduce bank erosion, sediment yield, and manure entering watercourses. Occasionally, a pipeline may cross streams or water courses.</p> <p>The Watering Facility practice is limited to the device that actually holds the water. It is not the well, spring, or other source of undeveloped water.</p> <p>The construction a fence across a riparian corridor or in a sensitive habitat may be utilized to improve grazing and land use management to achieve restoration goals</p>
Dimensions	<p><u>Length</u>: Average: 50'; Max: 200' through riparian areas (includes 50' on each bank and across a stream or gully), and up to 10,000' through the upland areas.</p> <p><u>Width</u>: Average 15'; Max: 20'.</p> <p><u>Area</u>: Max: 4,000 sq. ft. through riparian areas/crossing streams</p> <p><u>Volume</u>³: Average: 15 cu. yards; Max: 50 cu. yards through riparian areas⁴.</p> <p><u>Pressure</u>: Max: 300 psi (Highest capacity for a pipeline would not exceed 300 pounds per square inch). The maximum livestock pipeline diameter would be 3 inches.</p>
Additional Practice-	<p>Pipeline shall be installed and maintained only when a streambed is dry or dewatered. Trenching associated with this practice must be a minimum</p>

⁴ A "fish-bearing stream" is defined as a stream located within the range of the listed species

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<i>Specific Protection Measures</i>	of three feet deep. If dewatering in a fish-bearing stream is proposed as part of a project implemented under the permit coordination program, the RCDSCC/NRCS will comply with the terms and conditions outlined in the Biological Opinion, and any subsequent conditions, issued by NMFS for this project. No development of new water sources is included in this practice.
15. Wetland Management* (657, 659, 356, 587, 644)	To restore and enhance wetlands conditions similar to those that existed prior to modification for farming, grazing, or other land use. This practice includes minor reshaping to restore topographic relief of the site, hydrological enhancement (increasing season of inundation or saturation), and vegetative enhancement to remove any undesired species that did not originally exist on the site or to plant native species. To actively manage the water regime to improve habitat for desired species or to be able to manage for pest control (i.e. mosquitoes), dike and Structure for Water Control may be used. Once constructed, the maintenance of the practice(s) is allowable, including management of water levels and a wide range of vegetation management activities to maintain or improve the vegetative composition on a site.
<i>Dimensions</i>	<u>Area</u> : 5 acres. <u>Volume</u> ³ : 1,000 cyd.
<i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i>	Activities will seek to emulate the functions of undisturbed conditions and will not result in significant loss of vegetation or disturbance which would negatively impact species' habitat, cover, food, etc.

1. A "fish-bearing stream" is defined as a stream located within the range of the listed species (Central California Coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) Coho, the CCC steelhead, and South Central Coast ESU Steelhead) and/or designated critical habitat for these salmonids. The County of Santa Cruz and CDFG fisheries experts prepared a GIS-based summary of the existing information on salmonid distribution in Santa Cruz County streams "Steelhead and Coho Salmon Distribution", County of Santa Cruz, May, 2004. The NRCS and RCD will utilize this map, and any subsequent updates to it, during the initial project assessment to determine if the project is taking place in a fish-bearing stream.
2. Dimensions refer to actual area of improvement.
3. Volume of soil disturbed, based on practice installation and representing the volume of soil excavated and used as fill or removed from site, or soil imported as fill.
4. The "ordinary high water mark" on non-tidal rivers is defined by the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; the presence of litter and debris; or other appropriate means that consider the

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5. Actual objects rarely exceed 10 ft. x 15 ft. Access to an object may involve disturbance of up to 50' in length. It is difficult to estimate the total number of separate objects to be removed from a stream. Maximum disturbance per project is limited to .2 acres.
6. Embankment heights exceeding 6 ft will be accompanied by additional technical information that has been reviewed and approved by County Geologist and County Civil Engineer. At a minimum, all engineered practices shall be designed/sized to accommodate a 10-year storm event.
7. For vegetation treatments, soil disturbance is assumed to be a maximum of 700' of 2,000' maximum reach. The average depth of soil grading (cut or fill) is 3'.
8. Numbers provided for rock armoring refer to actual areas and volume of rock placed only. Total soil disturbance limits are same as for vegetative treatments since remainder of work area will be vegetated. Rock placed would be used at the toe of the bank in conjunction with bioengineering techniques. RSP for bank protection is limited to approximately 300 cyd. Up to 800 cyd of rock is allowable if the majority of rock will be used for fish-friendly practices, such as rock vanes, j-hooks, root wad anchoring, etc.
9. Area of practice within riparian area includes a 50' length and a 20' wide work area for equipment. Volume of soil is based on a 2' wide trench over 50' with pipe buried to an average depth of 2'.

**** Where this practice involves replacement of a fish passage barrier with a bridge, bridge plans will be designed by a civil engineer and soil information will be supplied to the County by a civil engineer or geotechnical engineer.**

- When grading exceeds 2000 cubic yards or the County geologist/engineer determines that the project warrants further investigation;
- When the embankment heights for a sediment basin exceeds six feet; or
- If project involves placement of fill in the FEMA identified flood hazard area (Zones A, V, or floodway), including footings, supports, approaches, erosion protection and other elements of bridges.

Summary of Activities for Each Tier.

COMPLEXITY OF PROJECT AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS				
LOWEST → HIGHEST				
	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	TIER IV
Summary	Projects in upland areas only. •No work in stream channels or riparian habitat.	Projects in streams or riparian areas; work may require temporary water diversion and	Projects in streams or riparian areas; work may require temporary water diversion and dewatering.	Projects that require dewatering and fish relocation and will occur in stream reaches listed in the 2010

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	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	TIER IV
	<p>•No projects where special status species or their habitat occurs.</p>	<p>dewatering.</p> <p>•No projects where threatened or endangered species or their habitat occurs.</p> <p>•No streambank rock riprap protection of any kind.</p>	<p>Projects where threatened or endangered species or their habitat occurs, including in jurisdictional wetlands.</p> <p>• For projects involving streambank rock riprap protection or removal of in-stream barriers, early coordination with agencies will occur.</p>	<p>NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon.</p> <p>•NMFS and DFG will be consulted early to discuss project inclusion in the Program, review design features, and methods to avoid take of coho.</p>
Timing	<p>Project construction will avoid the primary rainy season and consider wildlife usage in the project area. The general construction season will be April 15 to October 31. All earthmoving activities will be completed by October 31, with the exception of revegetation activities, which may occur until November 30.</p> <p>Additional tier one projects, such as invasive species removal, are authorized to proceed through December 31st, if there is no documented occurrence of the species within the past two years or if protocol level</p>	<p>Project construction will <u>entirely</u> avoid the rainy season and consider wildlife usage in the project area. The general construction season will be June 15 to October 31. All earthmoving activities will be completed by October 31, with the exception of revegetation, which may continue until November 30. Work outside this period may be authorized by agency staff on a site-specific basis.</p> <p>Work will be timed to avoid disturbing breeding birds in native habitat. Projects that could affect breeding birds will not begin until August 1 or until a qualified individual determines that a) the birds have fledged and are no longer</p>	<p>All restrictions for TIER II apply, AND:</p> <p>Where special status species could be impacted by construction activities, work seasons will be further restricted by agency staff, including:</p> <p>If suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander or the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander occurs in the project area, construction activities shall begin after April 15.</p> <p>If potential habitat for the marbled murrelet occurs in the project area, work shall either begin after September 15.</p> <p>If potential habitat for the Mount Hermon June beetle is present in the project area,</p>	<p>Project designs and plans will be reviewed and approved by biologists and/or engineers from NMFS and/or DFG prior to submittal of the PCN.</p> <p>Project sites with or adjacent to reaches known to support CCC Coho or within Core Implementation Areas (as defined in the 2010 CCC Coho Recovery Plan) will be snorkeled 1-2 weeks prior to project construction to determine potential presence of juvenile Coho*. Survey results, dewatering plans and fish relocation plans for each project will be submitted to NMFS for approval prior to diversion and dewatering.</p>

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	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	TIER IV
	surveys are conducted and no species are found.	reliant on the nest or parental care for survival, or b) the nest is abandoned.	<p>construction activities shall begin after August 15.</p> <p>If least Bell's vireos are discovered in Santa Cruz County during the life of the Program and are potentially present in the project area, construction activities shall begin after August 31.</p> <p>If listed species are present (based on protocol-level surveys), or assumed present based on habitat, invasive species removal may continue until December 31st. Early consultation with FWS and DFG is required</p>	
Notification	<p>RCDSCC will provide electronic Pre-Construction Notifications (PCN) for each project to regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over project activities no more frequently than 2 times per year; March 15th and May 15th.</p>	<p>All requirements for TIER I apply, AND: RCDSCC/NRCS will provide an electronic DRAFT Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over project activities no more frequently than 2 times per year; March 15th and May 15th. These agencies will provide</p>	<p>All requirements for TIER II apply, AND: All DRAFT PCN's will be submitted one time per year on May 15th. The agencies will provide comments or recommended revisions within 30 working days of receipt of a PCN.</p> <p>Notifications will include information on special status</p>	<p>All requirements for TIER III apply, AND: NMFS and DFG will be consulted early to discuss project inclusion in the Program.</p> <p>Results of the snorkel survey will be provided⁵.</p> <p>Project designs and plans will be reviewed and approved by</p>

⁵ Prior to dewatering, where coho could be present, the project reach will be snorkeled by a biologist familiar with identifying juvenile coho salmon. If juvenile coho are observed during snorkel surveys, electro-fishing will generally not be allowed and other relocation and/or avoidance methods will be developed in consultation with NMFS. If other options are not available, NMFS may authorize electro-fishing at low voltages. If juvenile coho are not observed during snorkel surveys, NMFS and DFG may authorize electrofishing. If juvenile coho are observed during relocation, electro-fishing will stop immediately and NMFS and DFG biologists will be consulted as to prudent next steps.

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	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	TIER IV
	<p>Notification will include the following information: project location; the TIER the project falls under and why; project description and purpose/need (including environmental benefits expected); environmental setting (surrounding habitat, adjacent land uses); approved practices to be installed; project dimensions (length, width, volume of soil disturbance); and summary of any survey results.</p> <p>Projects may begin 10 working days after electronic notifications have been emailed, unless the RCDSCC is contacted by the agencies.</p>	<p>comments or recommended revisions within 21 working days of receipt of a PCN. RCDSCC/NRCS will incorporate agency recommendations into the project description and may begin work without circulating a Final PCN. If discussions concerning recommended agency modifications are necessary, RCDSCC/NRCS will prepare and circulate a Final PCN for final project approval; work may begin 10 working days after the Final PCN is sent.</p> <p>Notifications will include a description of proposed water diversion or silt control, if working in a perennial stream and if flows will be isolated from the workspace.</p>	<p>species/habitat present in relation to the work area, potential impacts to special status species/habitat, and all applicable environmental protection and mitigation measures.</p>	<p>biologists and/or engineers from NMFS and/or DFG prior to submittal of the PCN.</p>

Description of Conservation Practices and Tier System

CONSERVATION PRACTICE (FOTG PRACTICE CODE)	TIER	PURPOSE AND COMMON USES
Access Road Improvement (560)	I, III, IV	Road projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III. Projects which can discharge into stream reaches listed in the 2010 NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70)

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CONSERVATION PRACTICE (FOTG PRACTICE CODE)	TIER	PURPOSE AND COMMON USES
		for coho salmon would fit into tier IV.
Planting (342, 612, 422, 391)	I, II or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; planting projects within a riparian corridor would fit in tier II; projects with T&E species, or near or in their habitat would fit in tier III.
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)	II, III, or IV	Projects within a riparian corridor would fit into tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit into tier III. Projects in stream reaches listed in the 2010 NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon would fit into tier IV.
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)	I or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.
Grassed Waterway (412)	I or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.
Obstruction Removal (500)	II, III, or IV	Projects within a riparian corridor would fit into tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit into tier III. Projects in stream reaches listed in the 2010 NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon would fit into tier IV.
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643)	I, II or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects within a riparian corridor would fit in tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.
Sediment Basin (350) [with or without Water Control (638)]	I or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.
Streambank Protection (580)	II, III, or IV	Streambank restoration activities, without listed species, would fit into tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit into tier III. Projects in stream reaches listed in the 2010 NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon would fit into tier IV.
Stream Channel Stabilization (584) (In non-fish bearing streams only)	II, III, or IV	Stream channel activities, without listed species, would fit into tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit into tier III. Projects in stream reaches listed in the 2010 NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon would fit into tier IV.
Stream Crossing (578)	II, III, or IV	Activities without listed species would fit into tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit into tier III. Projects in stream reaches listed in the 2010 NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon would fit into tier IV.
Structure for Water Control (587)	I, II, III, or IV	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects within a riparian corridor would fit in tier II. Projects which can discharge into stream reaches listed in the 2010 NMFS Recovery Plan as supporting coho salmon or having high intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon would fit into tier IV.
Underground Outlet (620)	I, II or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects within a riparian corridor would fit in tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.

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Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645, 382, 614, 516)	I or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.
Wetland Management (657, 659, 356, 644)	II or III	Projects within a wetland, without T&E species or their habitat would fit in tier II; projects with T&E species, or habitat would fit in tier III.

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EXHIBIT C:

Notification and Communication Procedures for the Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e., Master Permit)

Preliminary Pre-Construction Notification:

Tier I. The RCD will provide an electronic Pre-Construction Notifications (PCN) for each project to County Planning Department (attn: Environmental Planning) no more frequently than 2 times per year; March 15th and May 15th. Tier 1 notifications will include the following information:

- Project identification and location, including location map.
- Nature of work and description of project need.
- Approved practices to be installed.
- Environmental setting – surrounding habitat, adjacent land use.
- Photos of the project area and immediate surroundings annotated to describe the project area and any applicable site features.
- The volume of any proposed grading, including the offsite location to which the fill will be exported (if location is not a municipal landfill), and a valid grading permit (and, if in the coastal zone, a coastal permit) authorizing placement of the fill at the receiving site in such cases. Where grading exceeds 2,000 cubic yards, or as otherwise requested by the Planning Director, certification that plans have been designed and signed by a Registered Civil Engineer (RCE) practicing in accordance with the standards of the State of California (to be indicated by marking a checkbox on the PCN form).
- The compaction requirements and finished maximum cut and fill slopes, as applicable.
- When native vegetation will be removed and revegetation will occur, a visual assessment of dominant native shrubs and trees, approximate species diversity, and approximate coverage.
- Information and justification about the plant species to be used for revegetation (checkboxes).
- Potential presence of listed species (i.e., indication that CNDDB map has been consulted for species) (checkbox).
- Indication that County archeological and paleontological resources maps have been consulted to determine if the project is located in an area where such resources may be impacted (checkbox); with certification that the NRCS Cultural Resources Coordinator has been notified of any projects potentially impacting archeological resources (checkbox).
- If any projects will take place within Coastal Zone, certification that the PCN has been circulated to the California Coastal Commission, Central Coast District office (checkbox).
- For projects within the Coastal Zone, certification that the plans for such projects have been circulated to the California Coastal Commission, Central Coast District office (checkbox). All such plans should include:
 - Location map.
 - Site plan and cross-section/elevation views (if applicable);

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- Plans/maps showing property lines and APNs (NRCS and RCD will provide agencies with a key linking up the APNs for project locations and the landowner names);
- Indication of any easements or other restrictions applicable to the project area. NRCS and RCD shall inform participating landowners that: (1) landowners are responsible for providing the NRCS and RCD with accurate information about any easements and/or other restrictions affecting that portion of their property where the project would occur; (2) if landowners indicate that there are no such easements and/or restrictions when in fact this is inaccurate, or if they fail to identify all such easements and/or restrictions, and if project implementation leads to a conflict with the terms and conditions of any such easement(s) and/or restriction(s), then the involved landowner(s) shall be held responsible for rectifying the problems created by the project consistent with the terms and conditions of such easements and/or restrictions. When any easements and/or restrictions are identified, NRCS and RCD shall review such easements and/or restrictions (including coordinating with any third-party easement/restriction holders if there are any) to ensure that the project is consistent with them. The NRCS and RCD shall document recommendations on how the project should be modified, if necessary, to ensure consistency with any such restrictions and communicate this information to the landowner. If the landowner moves forward with project implementation and fails to incorporate such recommendations resulting in a conflict with any existing easements/restrictions, the landowner shall be held responsible for rectifying the problems consistent with the terms and conditions of such easements and/or restrictions. As described in the Project Description, and in the Cooperator Agreement itself, if a landowner (or Cooperator) does not carry out work consistent with project design standards and specifications, the NRCS and RCD shall notify the landowner and work directly with them to resolve the problem. If the landowner still fails to conform to the standards set forth in this Program, the NRCS or RCD shall notify the Cooperator that their activities are inconsistent with the standards and specifications contained in the Project Plans and Specifications and that the Cooperator's actions are no longer covered by the Program's permits and agreements. This easement/restriction language shall be included in the Cooperator Agreement signed by the participating landowners.
- For projects in Coastal Zone, a map showing trees that will be disturbed or removed, with description of how findings in County Code Chapter 16.34 (Significant Trees Protection) will be met for any proposed removal of a "significant tree" as defined in County Code Section 16.34.030.
- Indication if any part of the project area is within 40-feet of a County right-of-way.
- For any project that potentially could impact County rights-of-way and for which DPW Encroachment Permits would normally be needed, certification that plans

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for such projects have been circulated to the County Department of Public Works (DPW) (checkbox).

- Certification that site is not on list of hazardous materials sites cited in the CEQA Initial Study (checkbox).
- Proposed strategies for implementation of CEQA mitigations and other requirements, as specified in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Countywide Permit Coordination Program.
- Description of the criteria that will be used to measure success for each project, and the time frame to be used to monitor the identified success criteria. If identified success criteria are to be monitored for less than five years initially, then information and a rationale supporting such a decreased monitoring time-frame shall be provided.
- Indication that landowner access consent has been obtained for the project site and any properties that must be crossed to implement the project (checkbox).
- For all other project types requiring RCE review/approval, as indicated in Exhibit B (i.e., for practices designated with one or two asterisks in Exhibit B, or as indicated in the endnotes of Exhibit B), certification that an RCE has reviewed, analyzed, and/or designed the project (checkbox).
- Applicable information regarding CEQA mitigation monitoring, as described in #6 below.

Tier II. The RCD will provide an electronic Preliminary PCN for each project to County Planning Department (attn: Environmental Planning) no more frequently than 2 times per year; March 15th and May 15th. Notifications will include all Tier I information, as well as the following:

- Identification of those projects with in-stream work, and those potentially directly or indirectly impacting fish bearing streams⁶.
- Estimated number of creek crossings and type(s) of vehicle(s) to be used.
- A description of proposed water diversion or silt control, if working in a perennial stream and if flows will be isolated from the workspace.
- Presence of barriers to aquatic species migration.
- Indication that County FEMA map has been consulted to determine if the project is located in a FEMA identified flood hazard area (Zones A, V, or floodway) (checkbox).
- For all projects with the potential to impact a floodway or floodplain, the written analysis of a Registered Civil Engineer (RCE), or licensed hydrologist, indicating that the project will not decrease floodwater storage, modify floodwater conveyance, increase base flood elevation, or otherwise create an adverse impact either on the site, or upstream or downstream of the site.

⁶ A "fish-bearing stream" is defined as a stream located within the range of the listed species (Central California Coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) Coho, the CCC steelhead, and South Central Coast ESU Steelhead) and/or designated critical habitat for these salmonids. The County of Santa Cruz and CDFG fisheries experts prepared a GIS-based summary of the existing information on salmonid distribution in Santa Cruz County streams "Steelhead and Coho Salmon Distribution", County of Santa Cruz, May, 2004. The NRCS and RCD will utilize this map, and any subsequent updates to it, during the initial project assessment to determine if the project is taking place in a fish-bearing stream.

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Tier III and IV. By May 15th of each year, the RCD will send an electronic Preliminary PCN to the County Planning Department (attn: Environmental Planning) for each project planned for the upcoming construction season. Notifications will include all Tier II information, as well as the following:

- Description of any proposed wetland disturbance, including description of how project/practice will increase functional capacity of said wetland, and a description of the wetland delineation methodology (checkbox).
- Information on special status species/habitat present in relation to the work area, potential impacts to special status species/habitat, and all applicable environmental protection and mitigation measures.
- Results of the snorkel survey (Tier IV only).

All PCNs will include a cover sheet signed by the NRCS and the RCD certifying that each proposed project meets the criteria to qualify under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e. Master Permit).

Review of Preliminary PCN and Issuance of Final PCN:

1. For Tier I, projects may begin 10 working days after electronic notifications have been emailed, unless the RCD is contacted by the County Planning Department.
2. For Tier II projects, County Planning Department staff will provide comments or recommended revisions within 21 working days of receipt of a PCN. RCD/NRCS will incorporate agency recommendations into the project description and may begin work without circulating a Final PCN. If discussions concerning recommended modifications are necessary, RCD/NRCS will prepare and circulate a Final PCN for final project approval; work may begin 10 working days after the Final PCN is sent.
3. After reviewing the Preliminary PCN, if County staff determines there are projects that require further review and/or modification to meet the criteria established by the Master Permit, the County will contact the NRCS/RCD to discuss those specific projects and resolve the outstanding issues. During these discussions, if the County determines that additional protection measures or other project revisions are required, they will work with the NRCS/RCD to determine how these measures/revisions will be incorporated into the project. The County and NRCS/RCD will attempt to achieve resolution of outstanding concerns within 21 days of the receipt of the Preliminary PCN. Following discussions with the County and other participating agencies, the RCD/NRCS will send a revised PCN (Final PCN) to the County and other participating agencies, incorporating any revisions necessary to meet the criteria established by the Master Permit that resulted from the County and participating agencies' review of the Preliminary PCN. If no comments are made on a DRAFT PCN, that PCN becomes final and is not resent to County staff.
4. Mid-Construction Season Status Report: By October 1 of each year, the NRCS/RCD shall submit to the County (i.e., Environmental Planning) and the participating agencies

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for review, a written Mid-Construction Season Status Report that describes the mid-season status of each of the projects implemented that year. This report shall identify any changes necessary to achieve identified project success criteria, and the mechanisms for their implementation, as necessary. The County and/or the participating agencies may require additional and/or different changes as necessary to ensure that the projects continue to meet the criteria of the Master Permit.

5. Winter Grading Approvals: Every attempt shall be made to finish all grading and to install erosion control measures prior to the October 15 cutoff date. Any additional grading work beyond October 30 must be pre-approved by the County (i.e., Environmental Planning).
6. Annual Report: By January 31 of each year, the NRCS/RCD shall submit a status report for review to the County (i.e., Environmental Planning) and participating agencies in the form an end-of-the-season Annual Report documenting all projects. The Annual Report format shall be based on the NRCS Status Review format. The Annual Report shall list currently active projects, and describe each project's purpose, area affected, environmental enhancements accomplished, amounts/volumes of yardage and cut/fill, finish slopes, etc. It shall also list conservation benefits and any net gains in wetlands and riparian areas, describe actions taken to avoid adverse effects to and enhance habitat of listed species, and provide photo documentation of before and after site conditions.
7. Mitigation Monitoring Program: Consistent with the CEQA Mitigation Monitoring Plan included as Section VII of the Master Permit, the PCN and/or the Annual Report (as indicated below) shall include documentation of progress made towards implementation each of the Master Permit program mitigations as specified in the CEQA Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Master Permit/Countywide Permit Coordination Program, including listing any additional actions that may be needed to fully implement the CEQA mitigations and meet success criteria, with proposed strategies for ensuring that such actions are taken in the upcoming or following year. For all situations where mitigation measures are not being sufficiently implemented and/or success criteria are not being timely met, the Annual Report shall provide recommended remediation measures (and an implementation schedule for them) designed to meet mitigation targets and/or individual project success criteria. The County and/or the participating agencies may require additional and/or different changes as necessary to ensure that the projects continue to meet the criteria of the Master Permit.

In describing the implementation status of each mitigation measure and related aspects of the project (such as the project specific criteria), the NRCS/RCD shall provide specific data for each applicable project (e.g., percent of plants established, percent of non-native invasives, documentation of pre- and post-project conditions, dates that applicable RCE/hydrologist reports were submitted to and approved by County staff, etc.), as specified below:

- A. Mitigation Measure: I.A (also appears in General Condition #9 in Exhibit A).

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Monitoring Program: Prior to exercise of the Master Permit, documentation shall be submitted for review and approval by Environmental Planning staff certifying that all required state and federal approvals have been obtained. Copies of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Incidental Take Permit and Biological Opinion, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 7 consultation, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Stream Alteration Agreement and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Water Quality Certification permit shall be submitted as part of the first Pre-Construction Notification (PCN).

- B. Mitigation Measure: I.B. (also appears in General Condition #9 in Exhibit A).

Monitoring Program: Plans for individual projects and practices shall incorporate all conditions and recommendations of the approvals mentioned in Mitigation Measure I.A. above. All recommended methods to lessen "take" of protected plants, animals and habitats, including avoidance, shall be incorporated into the design of each practice or project completed under this permit. For each project with the potential to impact a state or Federally-listed species, the PCN and the Annual Report shall indicate what measures are being taken to avoid take of such species.

- C. Mitigation Measure: I.C. (also appears in General Condition #9 in Exhibit A).

Monitoring Program: Each specific project area disturbed by a project activity shall be monitored for increase in non-native plant cover, and the results of this monitoring shall be reported in each year's Annual Report. The Annual Report shall also document efforts to remove non-native, invasive plants that have colonized the area or expanded, including use of BMPs designed to prevent re-establishment, or shall document that the site is adjacent to an established, existing infestation that cannot reasonably be prevented from spreading on to the site without constant removal efforts.

- D. Mitigation Measure: I.D. (also appears in General Condition #9 in Exhibit A).

Monitoring Program: The Annual Report shall document that revegetation has been limited to plantings from the lists of preferred plant species given in Exhibits E and F, or that certain native plants that do not appear on these lists have been collected from the site, propagated from on-site plants or plants very close to the site, or grown from seed collected from the site or plants very close to the site. The Annual Report shall also document that any native plant materials that were grown at or delivered from a nursery were thoroughly inspected for disease and pests prior to use.

- E. Mitigation Measure: I.E. (also appears in General Condition #9 in Exhibit A).

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Monitoring Program: The Annual Report shall document that revegetation and non-native plant removal programs are monitored for three to five years and until success criteria are reached. The Annual Report shall also document any information submitted by a qualified individual that demonstrates that certain characteristics of the site and/or the revegetation plan indicate that the revegetation may be established more quickly than five years, and if success criteria are reached after only three years, that three years of periodic monitoring is adequate. Revegetation success shall be defined as the site being restored to at least the same condition as existed prior to the project. Measures of this success criterion may include: percent native plant cover, percent non-native invasive cover, number of native and non native species present, plant health, and areal extent of shade provided to adjacent waters by overhanging vegetation.

- a. Mitigation Measure: I (also appears at end of General Condition #9 in Exhibit A).

Monitoring Program: The PCN and Annual Report shall document that, prior to the onset of activities that result in the disturbance of habitat or individuals of any listed/special status species, all project workers including NRCS/ RCD staff and growers/landowners and/or their employees/representatives will have been given information on the listed species in the project area, a brief overview of the species' natural history, the protection afforded the species by the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts, and the specific protective measures to be followed during implementation of the practices.

- G. Mitigation Measure: II (also appears in General Condition #10 in Exhibit A).

Monitoring Program: To ensure that there is no detrimental impact from conservation practices/projects on conveyance of floodwater and the pattern of flooding, prior to the placement of fill within the floodplain or floodway the NRCS/RCD shall provide analysis from a Registered Civil Engineer or hydrologist for review and approval of Environmental Planning staff (as part of the PCN). The analysis shall show that the practice/project will not decrease storage of floodwaters, modify conveyance, increase base flood level, or otherwise create an adverse impact on the site, upstream or downstream. The Annual Report shall also include documentation that this report was submitted to the County as part of the PCN.

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EXHIBIT D: The NRCS Approach to Conservation

The Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (RCDSCC) is proposing to lead this Program with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as a technical partner. The NRCS will assist Program participants by providing technical assistance and administers Farm Bill cost sharing programs to cooperators (private landowners working in partnership with the NRCS). NRCS assists landowners in developing a conservation plan for their property. NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, builds on the strength of more than 60 years of natural resource protection on private lands. The agency works closely with local Resource Conservation Districts and other agencies, organizations and individuals to set conservation priority goals, work with people on the land, and provide technical assistance.

NRCS employees have technical expertise and field experience to help land users address their natural resource concerns and maintain and improve their economic viability. Employees bring a variety of scientific and technical skills to support resource planning, including soil science, agronomy, biology, agroecology, range conservation, engineering, water quality, cultural resources, and economics. The technical support provided by the NRCS to agricultural operators is based on conservation systems designed to sustain and improve soil and water quality by addressing erosion control, pesticide and nutrient management, flood control, and streambank stabilization. They use a watershed approach to conservation that utilizes ecological principles and resource science to evaluate and manage the aggregate effect of multiple individual land uses. The biotechnical enhancement of natural systems is achieved through installation of the conservation practices. Farmers and ranchers are stewards of much of the nation's privately owned land. They work voluntarily with the NRCS to protect and improve the natural resources on and adjacent to their property. With their technical experience and landowner relationships, the NRCS is in a unique position to provide dependable technical advice to landowners to ensure the conservation of natural resources for current and future generations.

In Santa Cruz County, the NRCS operates out of a Program Delivery Point Office in Capitola shared with the RCD. NRCS resources are also available through the Salinas Service Center and Salinas Area Office located in Monterey County. The agency is available to provide resource information and technology including:

1. Soil resource data for the County through the Soil Survey;
2. Conservation systems to sustain and improve soil and water quality by addressing erosion control, pesticide and nutrient management, irrigation water management, wetlands conservation and restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, flood control, and streambank stabilization;
3. A watershed approach to conservation that utilizes ecological principles and resource science to evaluate and manage the aggregate effects of many individual land uses;

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4. A plant material program that introduces new ways to use native and introduced plants to protect and restore water quality and wetlands, and reduce soil erosion; and
5. Techniques for assessing and predicting erosion, agricultural nonpoint-source water pollution, and the effects of agricultural practices and management decisions on farm and ranch economics.
6. Individual experts: soil scientist, Central Coast agronomist, water quality specialist, civil engineer, range specialist, and a roads engineer, as well as additional geologists, biologists and engineers out of the State NRCS Office.

The NRCS Conservation Planning Process

Under the proposed program, the NRCS' Proven Conservation Planning Process will be followed as described below for all projects carried out under the program. For all Farm-bill funded projects, the NRCS will ensure project works are compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will conduct an Environmental Evaluation for assistance it provides according to the NRCS-NEPA rules (7CFR 650), which became effective in 1979 and as updated by California Amendment CA4 in 2010. This rule prescribes the assessment procedures under which NRCS-assisted actions are to be implemented. For all non-NRCS funded projects, as the federal lead, USACE will ensure compliance with NEPA. Agency procedures are designed to ensure that environmental consequences are considered in decision-making, and to allow NRCS/RCD to assist individuals and non-federal public entities to take actions that protect, enhance, and restore environmental quality.

The NRCS nine-step conservation planning process is used to customize a management plan unique to the conditions of a local property and its manager. A conservation plan describing the selected management system is prepared with the customer.

The planning steps and the associated planning documents are listed below in Table D-1. Not all of the planning documents are generated anew for each property, but are based on templates that exist for each major land use or cropping system in California. Modifications to the templates and the resulting conservation plan are based on the assessment of site-specific conditions. Alternatives are evaluated by the client and the NRCS and result in a specific land use plan including detailed recommendations and an engineered plan if necessary.

Table D-1. Conservation Planning Process

	NRCS PLANNING STEP	DOCUMENT USED	RESULTS
Step 1	Consultation	<i>Tech Notes</i>	Identify resource problems with the client (land operator) and other specialists.
Step 2	Determine objectives	<i>Tech Notes</i>	Identify, agree on, and document the client's objectives.
Step 3	Inventory the resources*	<i>Checklist of Resource</i>	The checklist prompts the inventory team to provide quantitative or qualitative data in several

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	NRCS PLANNING STEP	DOCUMENT USED	RESULTS
		<i>Problems or Conditions.</i>	resource categories: Soils, Water, Air, Plants, Animals, and Human (social, economic, and cultural).
Step 4	Analyze resource data	<i>Quality Criteria</i>	For each of the resource problems or concerns identified, consult quality criteria to determine if resource is significantly impaired.
Step 5	Formulate alternative solutions	<i>Site Specific Practices Effect Worksheet</i>	All significantly impaired resources are itemized in a matrix. A brainstorm of practices which could be used to treat each impaired resource concerns are evaluated for anticipated negative or positive effects in the matrix using a three-point scale.
Step 6	Evaluate alternative solutions	<i>Resource Management System (RMS) Guidesheet.</i>	Groups of practices ('resource management systems') that result in a significant positive improvement in all resource problem categories are identified as alternative systems in the guidesheet. Other groups of practices are also listed as additional alternatives as long as they do not result in a negative effect on resource problems. This process is also known as an "alternatives analysis."
Step 7	Client determines course of action	<i>Conservation Plan</i>	Assist cooperator in selecting a system of optimal conservation practices to maximize resource protection and enhancement. Prepare a conservation plan and specifications.
Step 8	Client implements plan	<i>Standards, Specifications, Practice Requirement Worksheet</i>	Practices are implemented according to NRCS recommended design, standards, and specifications and with NRCS on-site technical support, if needed.
Step 9	Evaluation of results of plan	<i>Tech Notes and Status Reviews</i>	Evaluate effectiveness of plan and make adjustments as needed.

***Additional Documents Consulted:** 7.5" topographic maps, aerial photos, soil survey; LCC, prime soils, soils of statewide importance, unique soils, HEL, hydric conditions, 303(d) list, Cultural Resources, NWI, EPA: ozone and PM10, National Range and Pasture Handbook, CDFG Rarefind Database

During the interdisciplinary planning process, all potential impacts of the preferred alternative are documented. This document is then placed in the project case file. The document identifies all short term, long term, and cumulative effects of the proposed actions as well as the on-site and off-site impacts.

If significant adverse environmental impacts are expected to result from a project, the land user is encouraged to consider alternative actions, or may be directed to prepare a project specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). NRCS/RCD staff discourages

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projects that require an EIS. Typically, for small conservation projects, the assessment indicates that there are no significant adverse impacts or that long-term beneficial impacts outweigh short-term adverse impacts, and the conservation planner is directed to proceed with the plan of work.

Protection of Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources Review

The effects of conservation activities on historic properties are considered in the earliest planning stages and that cultural resource protection is accomplished as efficiently as possible. For all conservation projects covered by the proposed permit coordination program, the potential impacts to cultural resources will be identified and examined and no significant adverse effects will result.

All projects implemented under the Program will be subject to an NHPA assessment to ensure potential impacts to cultural resources are minimized. NRCS (Farm Bill funded projects) and USACE (non Farm Bill funded projects) will follow procedures which comply with the conditions outlined in agreements with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The agreements create a process for assessing potential impacts, reviewing local, State and national records and literature, and consulting with tribal authorities, historical societies and other interested parties. If the proposed site for a project lies within designated, culturally sensitive areas, a site inspection for cultural resources is conducted. If it is determined that impacts to cultural resources cannot be avoided, the project would not proceed under the permit coordination program.

Both agencies policy of protection is based on special measures that go into effect when a conservation activity qualifies as an "undertaking." An undertaking is any project, activity or program under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal Agency that can result in changes or use of historic properties. An undertaking may be determined to have no effect, no adverse effect, or an adverse effect on historic resources. This recognizes that practices that involve excavation and earthmoving (such as critical area planting and sediment basin) have a higher chance of impacting resources than practices affecting areas where tillage and cultivation have already been performed. If the project involves no ground disturbance or will not exceed the depth, extent, or kind of previous cultivation, the project will not qualify as an undertaking.

The NRCS California state office has a Cultural Resources Coordinator who provides resources and guidance to the District Conservationists and field staff. The Cultural Resources Coordinator provides training and informational materials to field personnel and other interested parties for the consideration of cultural resources; provides policy and procedural guidance for considering and managing cultural resources and historic properties; provides oversight and quality control for cultural resources program;

EXHIBIT A

conducts cultural resources investigations and evaluations; and develops treatment plans for mitigation.

For all Farm Bill funded projects covered under the permit coordination program, the NRCS serves as the lead agency to ensure protection of cultural resources in the project area. For all non Farm Bill funded projects covered under the permit coordination program, the USACE serves as the lead agency to ensure protection of cultural resources in the project areas.

Discovery of Cultural Resources or Human Remains

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 NRCS will respond immediately. This will include requesting the landowner to halt actions in areas with potential to affect cultural resources and notify the appropriate individuals immediately.

If human remains are uncovered, the RCD/NRCS 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.

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EXHIBIT E:**Recommended Plant Species for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit
Coordination Program**

Approved Non-Invasive **Non-Native** Species
(Numbers in right columns refer to NRCS practice number)

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Tree Shrub Grass Forb</i>	<i>Ann/ Per</i>	1/	2/			3/		
				342	342	393	412	342	393	412
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Australian Saltbush	F	P	X	X			X		
<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Common Mustard	F	A/Bi	X	X			X		
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa	F	P		X			X		
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	F	P		X			X		
<i>Vicia atropurpurea</i>	Purple Vetch	F	A	X	X			X		
<i>Vicia dasycarpa</i>	Lana Woolypod Vetch	F	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Agropyron intermedium</i>	Intermediate Wheatgrass	G	P			X		X	X	
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oats	G	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i>	Barnyard Grass	G	A					X	X	
<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	Luna Wheatgrass	G	P				X			X
<i>Festuca ovina glauca</i>	Sheep fescue	G	P			X			X	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Common Barley	G	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Lippia</i>	Matgrass	G	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	Wimmera-62 ryegrass	G	A					X		
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Bluegrass	G	A		X ^a	X ^a	X ^a			
<i>Secale cereale</i>	Cereal Rye	G	A	X	X	X ^b		X	X	
<i>Sorghum sudanese</i>	Sudangrass	G	A			X		X		
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson Clover	F	A	X	X					
	"Merced" Cereal Rye	G	A			X		X	X	
	Red Oats	G	A	X	X	X		X	X	
	Sterile Rye	G	A	X	X			X		
	Sterile Wheat	G	A	X	X	X		X	X	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	S	P		X			X		
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Lemon Bottlebrush	S	P		X			X		
<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	Dwarf rosemary	S	P		X			X		

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1. Natural Areas Definition: Areas where primary goal is restoration to native conditions and ecological functions.
2. Natural-Working Land Interface Definition: Area where primary purpose is to buffer natural areas from impact of working landscapes. Periodic management and/or disturbance may be required to sustain function (e.g., sediment removal, replanting, harvesting biomass and nutrients, mowing, etc.)
3. Farmscaping Definition: Working land area where the primary goal is crop production for harvest. Intensive management and regular disturbance occurs though some non-crop plants are established to protect crops (e.g. erosion-control, insect habitat, wind or dust control)
 - a/ Use in combination with *secale cereale* or *hordeum vulgare*
 - b/ Use in combination with other species

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EXHIBIT F:

Recommended Plant Species for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program

Approved *Native* Species

(Numbers in right columns refer to NRCS practice number)

				1/	2/			3/		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	342	342	393	412	342	393	412
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	F	P	X	X			X	X	
Anaphalis margaritacea	Pearly Everlasting	F	P	X	X			X		
Asclepias fascicularis	Milkweed	F	P	X	X			X		
Aster chilensis	Aster	F	P	X	X	-	-	X	-	-
Atriplex patula	Fat-Hen Saltbush	F	A	X	X			X		
Euthemia occidentalis	Goldenrod	F	P	X	X	X		X	X	
Heliotropium curassivicum var. oculatum	Heliotrope	F	P	X	X			X		
Potentilla gracilis	Slender Cinquefoil	F	P					X		
Stachys ajugoides or Stachys bullata	Hedgenettle	F	P	X	X			X		
Agrostis densiflora	California Bentgrass	G	P	X			X			X
Agrostis exerata	Spike Bentgrass	G	P	X						X
Deschampsia caespitosa ^b	Tufted Hairgrass	G	P	X				X		
Deschampsia elongata ^b	Slender Hairgrass	G	P	X				X		
Deschampsia holciformis ^b	Pacific Hairgrass	G	P	X			X	X		X
Distichlis spicata	Seashore Saltgrass	G	P	X				X		
Elymus glaucus ^b	Blue Wildrye	G	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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				1/	2/			3/		
		Tree Shrub								
Scientific Name	Common Name	Grass	Ann/ Per	342	342	393	412	342	393	412
Elymus trachycaulus	Slender Wheatgrass	G	P	X	X	X	X	X		X
Festuca idahoensis ^b	Idaho Fescue	G	P	X	X	X		X	X	
Festuca occidentalis ^b	Western Red Fescue	G	P	X		X			X	
Festuca rubra ^b	Creeping Red Fescue	G	P	X	X			X		
Festuca rubra ^b	Red Fescue (Molate)	G	P	X		X	X		X	X
Hordeum brachyantherum ssp. californicum ^b	California Barley	G	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hordeum brachyantherum ^b	Meadow Barley	G	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Koeleria macrantha ^b	June grass	G	P	X		X			X	
Leymus triticoides	Creeping Wildrye	G	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	G	P	X	X			X		
Nassella pulchra ^b	Purple Needlegrass	G	P	X	X			X		
Phalaris californica ^b	Canarygrass	G	P	X	X			X		
Stipa lepida	Foothill Stipa	G	P	X	X	X		X	X	
Carex barbarae ^a	Basket Sedge	GL	P	X	X			X		
Carex praegracilis ^a	Clustered Field Sedge	GL	P	X	X			X		
Eleocharis spp. ^a	Spikerush	GL	P	X	X			X		
Juncus balticus ^a	Baltic Rush	GL	P	X	X	X		X		
Juncus patens	Blue green Rush	GL	P	X	X	X		X	X	

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				1/	2/	3/				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	342	342	393	412	342	393	412
Juncus phaeocephalus	Brown Headed Rush	GL	P	X	X	X		X	X	
Scirpus americanus	Three-Square Bullrush	GL	P	X	X	X		X		
Scirpus microcarpus	Small-fruited Bulrush	GL	P	X	X	X		X		
Artemisia californica	California Sagebrush	S	P	X						
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	S	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Atriplex lentiformis	Quail Bush	S	P	X	X			X		
Atriplex lentiformis ssp. Breweri	Brewers Salt brush	S	P	X	X			X		
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Brush	S	P	X	X			X		
Baccharis viminea	Mule Fat	S	P	X	X			X		
Cephalanthus occidentalis	CA buttonwillow	S	P	X	X			X		
Cercis occidentalis	Western redbud	S	P	X	X			X		
Eriogonum arborescens	Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat	S	P	X	X			X		
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California Buckwheat	S	P	X	X			X		
Helianthemum scoparium	Rockrose	S	P	X	X			X		
Holodiscus discolor	Oceanspray	S	P	X	X			X		
Lonicera involucrata	Black Twinberry	S	P	X	X					
Malosma laurina	Sumac	S	P	X	X			X		
Polygonum paronychi ^a	Beach Knotweed	S	P	X	X			X		

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				1/	2/	3/	
Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	342	342	393	412
Prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry	S	P	X	X		X
Rhamnus californica	Coffeeberry	S	P	X	X		X
Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum	Red-Flowering Currant	S	P	X	X		X
Rosa californica	California Wildrose	S	P	X	X		X
Rubus parviflorus	Thimbleberry	S	P	X	X		X
Rubus ursinus	California Blackberry	S	P	X	X		X
Salix scouleriana	Scouler Willow	S	P	X	X		X
Salvia mellifera	Black Sage	S	P	X	X		
Sambucus mexicana	Blue Elderberry	S	P	X	X		X
Vaccinium ovatum	California Huckleberry	S	P	X	X		X
Acer macrophyllum	Big Leaf Maple	T	P	X	X		X
Acer negundo	Box Elder	T	P	X	X		X
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye	T	P	X	X		X
Alnus rhombifolia ^c	White Alder	T	P	X	X		X
Alnus rubra ^c	Red Alder	T	P	X	X		X
Arbutus menziesii	Pacific Madrone	T	P	X	X		X
Cornus californica	Creekside Dogwood	T	P	X	X		X
Cornus stolonifera	Red Osier Dogwood	T	P	X	X		X

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				1/	2/	3/				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	342	342	393	412	342	393	412
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	T	P	X	X			X		
Platanus racemosa ^c	Western Sycamore	T	P	X	X			X		
Populus fremontiic	Fremont Cottonwood	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix hindsiana	Sandbar Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix hookeriana	Coastal Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix laevigata	Red Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix lasiandra	Yellow Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix sitchensis	Coulter Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	T	P	X	X					
Umbellularia californica	California Bay	T	P	X	X					
	Clements Lotus			X				X		

1. Natural Areas Definition: Areas where primary goal is restoration to native conditions and ecological functions.
 2. Natural-Working Land Interface Definition: Area where primary purpose is to buffer natural areas from impact of working landscapes. Periodic management and/or disturbance may be required to sustain function (e.g., sediment removal, replanting, harvesting biomass and nutrients, mowing, etc.)
 3. Farmscaping Definition: Working land area where the primary goal is crop production for harvest. Intensive management and regular disturbance occurs though some non-crop plants are established to protect crops (e.g. erosion-control, insect habitat, wind or dust control).
- a/ Use local divisions
b/ Use local divisions or do not plant within 1 mile of a natural area
c/ Concern with introducing disease into plant community through contaminated nursery stock

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EXHIBIT G:

Prohibited Plant Species List for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program

Scientific Name	Common Name	Do not Plant in Project Area ¹	Eradicate in Project Area ²
<i>Acacia melanoxydon</i>	Blackwood acacia	x	x
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle	x	x
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	Mexican Eupatorium	—	?
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-heaven	x	x
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	European Beachgrass	x	x
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	x	x
<i>Bromus rigidus</i>	Rip gut grass	—	—
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	?	?
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Italian Thistle	—	—
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Iceplant	x	x
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star Thistle	x	x
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	—	—
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison Hemlock	—	x
<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	Jubata Grass	—	x
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass	—	x
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass	x	x—
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom	x	x—
<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	Portuguese (Striatus) Broom	x	x—
<i>C. franchetti, C. pannosa**, C. lacteal</i>	Cotoneaster	x	x
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchardgrass	x	x
<i>Delaireia odorata</i>	Cape Ivy	—	x
<i>Ehrharta erecta, Ehrharta calycina</i>	Veldt grass	x	x
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Eucalyptus	x	x
<i>Erechtites glomerata</i>	Australian fireweed	—	—
<i>Erechtites mimima</i>	Australian fireweed	—	—
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	tall fescue	x	x
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom	x	x
<i>Hedera sp.</i>	Algerian Ivy	?	?
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	x	x
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	velvet grass	x	x
<i>Hordeum geniculatum</i>	Mediterranean barley	—	?
<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>	Famer's foxtail	—	?

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Do not Plant in Project Area ¹	Eradicate in Project Area ²
<i>Leptospermum</i> sp.	Australian tea tree	x	x
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian rye grass	?	x—
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye grass	x	?
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	horehound	x	x
<i>Medicago hispida</i>	bur clover	—	—
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	white sweet clover	—	?
<i>Myosatis latifolia</i>	Forget-me-not	x	x—
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	x	x—
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	kikuyu grass	x	x
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Harding grass	x	x
<i>Robinia psuedoacacia</i>	Black Locust	x	x
<i>Rubus procerus</i>	Himalaya Berry	x	x
<i>Senecio mikanoides</i>	German ivy	x	x
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	common groundsel	—	—
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk thistle	—	x—
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	common sow thistle	—	—
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	x	x—
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	salt cedar, tamarisk	x	x
<i>Tradescantia</i> sp.	Wandering Jew	x	x
<i>Ulex europaea</i>	Gorse	x	x—
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle	x	x
<i>Xanthium stumarium</i>	cocklebur	—	x

Key to Symbols:

(—) indicates that species is not commonly planted

(x) indicates species is uncontrollable;

(x—) indicates that species may be uncontrollable depending on patch size

(?) indicates more research is needed on the spreading of these species through landowner implementation and ability to control these species once established. As with all species in this table, the proliferation of these species will be minimized as part of the program

(**) indicates species is much worse than other species

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Exhibit H: Required Mitigation Measures for CEQA Negative Declaration

NAME: Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
APPLICATION: 03-0513
A.P.N: Countywide

NEGATIVE DECLARATION MITIGATIONS

- I. In order to mitigate for potential incidental loss of special status species, to comply with the Federal and State endangered species acts and to minimize impacts on wildlife habitat, in addition to implementing the avoidance measures, best management practices, and minimization techniques given in the program description, the applicant shall:
 - A) Prior to exercise of this permit, submit documentation for review and approval by Environmental Planning staff that all required state and federal approvals have been obtained. Copies of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Incidental Take Permit and Biological Opinion, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 7 consultation, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Stream Alteration Agreement and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Water Quality Certification permit shall be submitted.
 - B) Plans for individual projects and practices shall incorporate all conditions and recommendations of the approvals mentioned above. All recommended methods to lessen "take" of protected plants, animals and habitats, including avoidance, shall be incorporated into the design of each practice or project completed under this permit.
 - C) For each specific project the area disturbed by the project activity shall be monitored for increase in non- native plant cover. Non- native, invasive plants that have colonized the area or expanded shall be removed using BMPs designed to prevent re-establishment, unless the site is adjacent to an established, existing infestation that cannot reasonably be prevented from spreading onto the site without constant removal efforts.
 - D) Revegetation shall be limited to plantings from "List of Preferred Plant Species", Appendix B (of CEQA Initial Study or Exhibits E & F of Master Permit), unless certain native plants that do not appear on the list can be collected from the site, propagated from on site plants or plants very close to the site, or grown from seed collected from the site or plants very close to the site. Further, native plant materials that are grown at or delivered from a nursery shall be closely inspected for disease and pests prior to use.
 - E) Revegetation and non-native plant removal programs shall be monitored for three to five years and until success criteria are reached.

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If information has been submitted by an NRCS consulting biologist that demonstrates that certain characteristics of the site and/or the revegetation plan indicate that the revegetation may be established more quickly than five years, and if success criteria are reached after only three years, then three years of periodic monitoring may be adequate.

Revegetation success is defined as the site being restored to at least the same condition as existed prior to the project. Measures of this success criterion may include: percent native plant cover, percent non native invasive cover, number of native and non native species present, plant health, and areal extent of shade provided to adjacent waters by overhanging vegetation.

- II. To ensure that there is no detrimental impact from conservation practices on conveyance of floodwater and the pattern of flooding, prior to the placement of fill within the floodplain or floodway the applicant shall provide analysis from a Registered Civil Engineer or hydrologist for review and approval of Environmental Planning staff. The analysis shall show that the practice will not decrease storage of floodwaters, modify conveyance, increase base flood level, or otherwise create an adverse impact on the site, upstream or downstream.

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Exhibit I

CEQA Initial Study and Negative Declaration

(on file at the Planning Department)

EXHIBIT A



The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) proposes to amend the **Master Permit for Environmental Enhancement Projects (Master Permit)**, which was renewed on July 28, 2010. The Master Permit implements the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (Program) and was issued to the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (RCD) for the implementation of small, environmentally beneficial projects, such as stream bank protection, gully stabilization, culvert repair/replacement, erosion control structures, exotic vegetation removal, and fish stream habitat improvement projects, primarily on private parcels (mostly farm and ranch lands) throughout the unincorporated area (except within the “original jurisdiction” of the California Coastal Commission – i.e., primarily areas below the mean high tide line). The existing Master Permit constitutes County approval for the conduct of 13 specific types of conservation practices.

During implementation of the permit coordination program over the last five years, the RCD has learned much about the types of restoration work most needed in Santa Cruz County. This is based in part on the feedback from agency staff during the implementation of projects under this Program, as well as on changing natural resource focus within the community (ie. shift in priority by the National Marine Fisheries Service from fish passage barrier removal to increasing habitat complexity). To reflect this knowledge and input, the RCD proposes to amend the Master Permit, including the modification of the existing practice “Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats” to include fuel load management, as well as the addition of two new practices, “Wetland Management” and “Upland Wildlife Habitat Management”. Through the implementation of a vast array of environmental protection measures, the proposed activities will not generate significant unavoidable environmental impacts. The environmental protection measures are described in Exhibit A (General Required Conditions for All Projects Authorized Under the Countywide Permit Coordination Program).

The expansion of the definition of the practice, “Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats”, to include fuel load management stems from the increase in vegetation removal by private landowners in response to recent fires and through the RCD and CalFire’s completion of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which outlines fire-prone areas for which vegetation management is needed. The RCD will continue to coordinate with CalFire to assist landowners with selective vegetation removal for fire protection, and will be able to offer a permitting mechanism by including these activities in the permit coordination program.

The practice, “Wetland Management”, will be used to restore and enhance wetland functions, predominantly focused on areas that were previously in agriculture. The need for this practice stems from a decade of collaboration with landowners in the middle Watsonville Slough system regarding the increasing quantity of water from upstream sources and the loss of viable agricultural land. The RCD will continue to coordinate with the Coastal Commission and US Fish and Wildlife Service to improve wetland function for a diversity of wildlife species. In

2. **Wetland Management:** Restoring and enhancing wetland conditions similar to those that existed prior to modification for farming, grazing, or other land use, including managing water regime to improve habitat for desired species or for pest control.

3. **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management:** Creating, restoring, and/or enhancing upland habitat for wildlife species through the installation of infrastructure or manipulation of vegetation to sustain optimal habitat conditions.

II. Required Criteria for Eligible Projects:

A. General Criteria: All qualifying environmental enhancement projects must comply with the general required conditions set forth in Exhibit A. These conditions include limitations on:

- Timing of construction (e.g., limits on work during the wet season);
- Site disturbance (e.g., earthmoving and vegetation removal);
- Construction equipment;
- Revegetation and removal of exotic plants;
- Erosion generating activities;
- Work in streams, floodplains, wetlands and permanently ponded areas;
- Use of herbicides;
- Impacts to Special Status species;
- Impacts to floodwater conveyance patterns.

B. Project Specific Criteria: Exhibit B provides a detailed description of each type of eligible project, as well as the size/volume limitations and specific design criteria and standards for each conservation practice.

III. Procedures for Review and Approval of Projects:

A. RCD/NRCS Role: Each qualifying environmental enhancement project will be carried out under the auspices and oversight of the NRCS and the RCD, following the NRCS Conservation Planning Process (as described in Exhibit D). The NRCS and RCD will cooperatively maintain oversight of all qualifying projects/activities, will use a nine-step conservation planning process (see Table D-1 in Exhibit D) to customize a management plan tailored for the unique conditions of each participating property and its owner/manager. A conservation plan describing the selected management system is prepared with the land owner/manager. In addition, prior to the onset of activities that result in the disturbance of habitat of any species listed under the Federal and/or California Endangered Species Acts, all project workers including NRCS and RCD staff and cooperating property owners/managers shall be given information on the listed species in the project area, by the NRCS/RCD, including a brief overview of the species' natural history, the protection afforded the species by the Federal and/or California Endangered Species Acts, and the specific protective measures to be followed during implementation of the practices.

The NRCS and RCD will administer the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program using *Procedures for Complying with Multiple Permits: A Guide for Conservation Planners*, a manual that will be designed specifically for the program. This manual will be prepared once all

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Fish and Game (CDFG)	a Template 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be developed for the Santa Cruz permit coordination program
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Regional General Permit, Section 404 and Section 10 of the Federal Clean Water Act
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
NOAA Fisheries	Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification

California Coastal Commission – Coastal Development Permit (partially covered by the “Master Permit” issued by the County

Under the California Coastal Act, coastal development permits are required for most types of development within the California coastal zone. The California Coastal Commission has certified the Santa Cruz County Local Coastal Program (LCP) and delegated most direct permit and enforcement authority within the County’s coastal zone to the County (subject to Commission oversight, review, and in some cases, appeal of County coastal permit decisions). The Commission retains direct coastal permit jurisdiction over tidelands, submerged lands, and/or public trust lands (i.e., typically areas below the mean high tide line such as those along the immediate shoreline, tidal estuaries, lagoons, etc.). Thus, the Master Permit issued through the County can only allow for development consistent with it that is located within the County’s coastal permit jurisdiction area. Any development located within the Coastal Commission’s retained coastal permit (or “original”) jurisdiction is not covered by the Master Permit and would require a coastal permit directly from the Coastal Commission.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) – MOA and Template 1603 Streambed Alteration Agreement

Under Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, anyone proposing to carry out an action in a river, creek or stream must notify the Department of Fish and Game, which is then responsible for determining if there is a need for a Streambed Alteration Agreement. A Streambed Alteration Agreement is a contract between the applicant and the CDFG regarding what will and will not be done in the riparian zone and stream course. The NRCS and the non-profit organization Sustainable Conservation have developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Region 3 of CDFG. It is expected that a Regional MOA for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program and a Template 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be approved for the program. This Template will be used to expedite preparation and review of 1602 Agreements for each project carried out under the permit coordination program. If not approved, individual 1600 permits will be obtained.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Regional General Permit (RGP)

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required for discharge of dredged or fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. Such activities include the modification of banks,

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drainage facilities may result in a short-term increase in erosion potential. All permits issued by the USACE for a project require 401 certification by the RWQCB.

D. Post-Construction Monitoring and Reporting: As described more fully in Exhibit C, Mid-Construction Season Status Reports and end-of-season Annual Reports will be prepared and submitted for review to the County and participating agencies by the NRCS/RCD, describing the status of all environmental enhancement projects carried out under the Master Permit program until projects are installed and are functioning according to design standards and serving their intended purpose, and until all mitigation measure installment, monitoring obligations and success criteria, are met. This provides the agencies with the opportunity to review the status and progress of projects implemented under the Program and to determine whether further clarification and/or minor project modifications may be necessary to meet program objectives and/or meet the terms of the Master Permit.

The Mid-Construction Season Status Report, to be distributed by October 1st of each year, will indicate the mid-season status of each project undertaken that year.

The Annual Report shall be based on the NRCS Status Review format and will be distributed to the participating agencies (those listed in Section IV[C] above) by January 31st of each year. The Annual Report will list projects, and describe each project's purpose, area affected, natural biological enhancements, and amount of yardage, cut and slope of the work, etc. The Annual Report will assess the conservation practices in terms of their current condition, check the practices against the original plan, evaluate success criteria achievement, and provide recommendations for resolving any problems with the implementation of the practices and/or mitigation measures. The Annual Report will also list conservation benefits and any net gains in wetlands and riparian areas, describe actions taken to avoid adverse effects to listed endangered/threatened species and their habitats, and provide photo documentation of before and after site conditions. Consistent with the CEQA Mitigation Monitoring Plan in section VI below, the Annual Report shall also document progress made towards implementation of project mitigations and achievement of success criteria, including those listed in the CEQA Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program and, in situations where mitigation measures are not being sufficiently implemented, provide recommended remediation measures to meet individual project success criteria as well as strategies to improve their implementation in the future.

- Exhibit A: General Required Conditions for All Projects Authorized Under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e., Master Permit)
- Exhibit B: Proposed Conservation Practices Eligible Under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program, with Allowed Dimensions, and Project-Specific Conditions
- Exhibit C: Notification and Communication Procedures for the County Master Permit Program

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	<p>and/or water control basin, work may not begin until after August 1. If construction must occur during this period, a qualified individual approved by USFWS and/or CDFG shall conduct pre-construction surveys for bird nests or bird nesting activity in the project area. If any active nests or nesting behaviors are found (for species other than starlings and house sparrows), an exclusion zone of 75 feet shall be established to protect nesting birds (200 ft. for raptors) and maintained until the qualified individual (approved by USFWS and/or CDFG) verifies that birds have fledged or nest is abandoned. If any listed or sensitive bird species are identified, CDFG must be notified prior to further action. Take of active bird nests is prohibited. The NRCS and RCD may request exemptions to this requirement from CDFG on a project-by-project basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander or the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander occurs in the project area, construction activities shall begin after April 15. • If potential habitat for the marbled murrelet occurs in the project area, work shall either begin after September 15 or the NRCS/RCD shall implement sound reduction measures to ensure that activities do not significantly raise noise levels above ambient levels. • If potential habitat for the Mount Hermon June beetle is present in the project area, construction activities shall begin after August 15 (unless USFWS gives prior approval to the NRCS/RCD in response to their pre-construction notification to begin work earlier than August 15). • If least Bell's vireos are discovered in Santa Cruz County during the life of the Program and are potentially present in the project area, construction activities shall begin after August 31 (Note: USFWS would notify NRCS/RCD if least Bell's vireo are discovered in Santa Cruz County during the life of the Program). <p>Work beyond the allowed construction season end date may be authorized following consultation with CDFG, USFWS, ACOE, NOAA Fisheries, and Santa Cruz County. Any proposed winter grading (i.e., for any grading between October 30 and April 15), associated with construction work that extended beyond October 15, shall be subject to approval by Environmental Planning staff. Additional erosion control measures, as described below under Conditions for Erosion Control, shall be implemented for work conducted during the winter period (generally defined as October 15 through April 15). These measures shall be complete and in place by October 15.</p> <p>Where habitat for other Federal and/or State listed species not addressed above is identified on and/or adjacent to the project work site, construction and activities that may disturb the breeding, feeding, mating and sheltering of these species shall be limited to the maximum extent feasible to avoid potential impacts.</p>
3. Limitation on Earthmoving and Vegetation Removal (Site Disturbance)	<p>In addition to the limitations on the amount of grading that can be performed, as specified for each applicable project-type in Exhibit B, the following conditions apply to projects involving earthmoving and site disturbance:</p> <p>Disturbance to existing grades and vegetation shall be limited to the actual site of the conservation project and necessary access routes. Consistent with General Plan/LCP</p>

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	<p>For potential wetlands in the Coastal Zone, the Coastal Commission's definition of a wetland shall be used to avoid potential impacts¹.</p> <p>Implementation of practices shall minimize all potential contributions of sediment to waterways. To the greatest extent possible, excavated materials shall be re-integrated on site. In the rare situations where excavated material is not used in the implementation of the practice it shall be removed and placed at sites that are not within riparian areas, wetlands, and/or the Federally identified floodway and/or floodplain. Any fill placed within the one hundred year floodplain shall be placed in a manner necessary to ensure there will be no rise in the base flood elevation and no flood related off site impacts. This "no rise" condition shall be verified by a registered civil engineer.</p> <p>Upon completion of grading, slope protection of all disturbed sites shall be provided prior to the end of the construction season through a combination of permanent vegetative treatment, mulching, geotextiles, and/or rock (where the preference is for "soft" materials, such as vegetation, woody debris, etc., as opposed to "hard" materials, such as concrete, gabions, large rock, etc.).</p>
4. Limitations on Construction Equipment	<p>The NRCS and RCD shall ensure that the use and/or storage of petroleum-powered equipment shall be accomplished in a manner to prevent the potential release of petroleum materials into waters of the state (Fish and Game Code 5650). All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.</p> <p>The following precautionary measures shall be adhered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All excavation and grading activities shall be scheduled for, and will occur during, dry weather periods. • A contained area shall be designated for equipment storage, short-term maintenance, and refueling. It shall be located at least 100-feet from all water bodies. If site conditions (property size) make this 100-foot distance infeasible, these activities shall occur at the maximum distance possible from aquatic areas. • Vehicles shall be inspected for leaks and repaired immediately. • Leaks, drips and other spill shall be cleaned up immediately to avoid soil or groundwater contamination. • Major vehicle maintenance and washing shall be done in a manner that protects the environment (at a minimum on a paved surface where all wash water, drippings, runoff, etc. is collected and properly disposed, and preferably offsite). • All spent fluids (including motor oil, radiator coolant, and/or other fluids) and used vehicle batteries shall be collected, stored, and recycled as hazardous waste off site. • All construction debris and sediments (if sediments are not incorporated on site) shall be properly disposed. Plans shall indicate the approved disposal

¹ The Coastal Commission considers a wetland to be any area that is wet enough long enough to support a preponderance of hydrophytic vegetation or to result in soil that is predominantly hydric. In other words, only one of the three primary indicators of wetlands need be demonstrated for an area to be identified as a wetland (California Code of Regulations, Section 13577).

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	<p>replaced to a similar density with native species. No staging shall occur in or directly adjacent to wetlands. If it is not feasible to completely avoid movement of construction vehicles through wetlands, whenever possible rubber tired vehicles shall be used or a protective mat shall be laid down prior to moving across these areas.</p>
<p>5. Revegetation of the Project Area and Removal of Exotic Plants</p>	<p>The project area vegetation shall be restored to pre-construction condition or better (including as directed by project specific success criteria), and shall be maintained until this goal and/or project specific success criteria have been met and plants have become established. Any stream bank area left barren of vegetation as a result of the implementation or maintenance of the practices shall be restored by seeding, replanting, or other agreed upon means with native trees, shrubs, and/or grasses prior to November 30 of the project year. Soil exposed as a result of construction, soil above rock riprap, and interstitial spaces between rocks shall be revegetated by live planting, seed casting, mulching or hydroseeding with non-invasive grass species prior to the close of the construction season (See Exhibits E and F for full list of preferred species for revegetation).</p> <p>If native vegetation is disturbed during project implementation, the native plant community shall be restored to pre-construction condition or better.</p> <p>Native plants characteristic of the local habitat type shall be the preferred alternative for revegetation, however non-invasive non-native species may be used if determined, during project planning, to be more feasible and/or resource protective (see Exhibits E and F for the full list of approved native and non-native plant species and Exhibit G for prohibited species). If the native local ecotype is not commercially available, plants of the same species but different ecotype may be used, unless that species is identified in Exhibit F as being susceptible to genetic, pathogen or insect contamination. If the native local ecotype is not commercially available and/or that species is identified as susceptible to genetic, pathogen or insect contamination, another native species may be used in its place. Revegetation of a native community may not occur if there is a concern that nursery stock will introduce diseases into a susceptible community and/or if the community itself can regenerate (e.g. Alders). In this case, an annual grass species may be used for one-year erosion control (see Exhibits E and F for full list of approved species for use in revegetation efforts).</p> <p>Inspections for the purpose of assessing the survival and growth of revegetated areas and the presence of exposed soil shall be conducted by the NRCS/RCD until vegetation is established and the project is functioning as intended, and success criteria have been met. Revegetation success shall be documented in the Annual Report provided to the County and participating agencies each year. If the status reviews reveal that the vegetative plantings are not becoming well established an adaptive management plan that provides erosion control and habitat value at least equivalent to that which existed on the site prior to the project, and which considers cost and feasibility, shall be</p>

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**on Work in
Streams,
Wetlands,
Floodplains,
and
Permanently
Ponded Areas**

be isolated from flowing water to prevent sedimentation and turbidity. In those specific cases where it is deemed necessary to work in a flowing stream/creek, all the flowing water shall be temporarily diverted around the work site to maintain downstream flows during construction. Any temporary dam or other artificial obstruction constructed shall only be built from materials such as sandbags or clean gravel which will cause little or no siltation. Cofferdams and any stream diversion systems shall remain in place and functional throughout the construction period. If the cofferdams and/or stream diversion fail, they shall be repaired immediately. When construction is completed, the flow diversion structure shall be removed as soon as possible in a manner that shall allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. If dewatering in a fish-bearing stream is proposed as part of a project implemented under the permit coordination program, the NRCS/RCD shall comply with the terms and conditions outlined in the Biological Opinion issued for the Program, and any subsequent conditions, issued by NOAA Fisheries for this project.

No creosote treated timbers shall be used for instream structures. No gabions or concrete shall be used in fish bearing streams. In non-fish-bearing streams they may be used above the high water mark only. If used, all concrete shall be allowed to cure for a minimum of 30 days before being exposed to stream water or water that may enter the stream, or all concrete shall be coated with a CDFG-approved concrete sealant. If sealant is used, water shall be excluded from the site until the sealant is dry.

The implementation and maintenance of projects shall not result in sediment delivery to a clean bottom of stream channel. A "clean" bottom is characterized by natural stream substrate (cobbles, gravel and small stones or similar to background conditions).

If the substrate of a seasonal pond, creek, stream or water body is altered during work activities and the alteration is not the goal of the practice being implemented (i.e. channel stabilization), it shall be returned to approximate pre-construction conditions after the work is completed, unless NOAA Fisheries or CDFG requests during their annual pre-construction review of projects that other measures be implemented.

All debris, sediment, rubbish, vegetation, and/or other material removed from the channel banks, channel bottom, and/or sediment basins shall be removed to a location where they shall not re-enter the waters of the state. All petroleum products, chemicals, silt, fine soils, and/or any substance or material deleterious to fish, plant, or bird life shall not be allowed to pass into, or be placed where it can pass into the waters of the State.

Wetlands shall only be disturbed when part of a project that will enhance the value of the wetland.

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wildlife habitat, in addition to implementing the avoidance measures, best management practices, and minimization techniques given in the program description, the NRCS/RCD will complete the following:

- I.(A) Provide documentation certifying that all required state and federal approvals have been obtained. Copies of any state and federal approval documents shall be provided (e.g., United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Incidental Take Permit and Biological Opinion, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 7 consultation, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Stream Alteration Agreement, California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Water Quality Certification permit, etc.) shall be submitted.
- I.(B) Plans for individual projects and practices shall incorporate all conditions and recommendations of the approvals mentioned in I.(A) above. All recommended methods to lessen potential "take" of protected plants, animals and habitats, including avoidance, shall be incorporated into the design of each practice or project completed under this permit.
- I.(C) Each specific project the area disturbed by a project activity shall be monitored for increase in non-native and/or invasive plant cover. Non-native and/or invasive plants that have colonized the area or expanded shall be removed using BMPs designed to prevent re-establishment, unless the site is adjacent to an established, existing infestation that cannot reasonably be prevented from spreading on to the site without constant removal efforts.
- I.(D) Revegetation shall be limited to plantings from the lists of preferred plant species given in Exhibits E and F, unless certain native plants that do not appear on these lists can be collected from the site, propagated from on-site plants or plants very close to the site, and/or grown from seed collected from the site or plants very close to the site. Further, native plant materials that are grown at or delivered from a nursery shall be closely inspected for disease and pests prior to use.
- I.(E) Revegetation and non-native/invasive plant removal programs shall be monitored for three to five years and until identified success criteria are reached. If information has been submitted by an NRCS consulting biologist that demonstrates that certain characteristics of the site and/or the revegetation plan indicate that the revegetation may be established more quickly than five years, and if success criteria are reached after only three years, then three years of periodic monitoring may be adequate.

Minimum revegetation success is defined as the site being restored to at

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Coastal Development Permit May Be Required	including any lands lying below the mean high tide line, filled areas that previously were below the mean high tide line, submerged lands, coastal lagoons/estuaries, public trust lands, etc.). Any project in these areas shall require separate Coastal Commission approval.
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<p>* (657, 659, 356, 587, 644)</p>	<p>minor reshaping to restore topographic relief of the site, hydrological enhancement (increasing season of inundation or saturation), and vegetative enhancement to remove any undesired species that did not originally exist on the site or to plant native species. To actively manage the water regime to improve habitat for desired species or to be able to manage for pest control (i.e. mosquitoes), dike and Structure for Water Control may be used. Once constructed, the maintenance of the practice(s) is allowable, including management of water levels and a wide range of vegetation management activities to maintain or improve the vegetative composition on a site.</p>
	<p><u>Area</u>: 5 acres.</p> <p><u>Volume</u>³: 1,000 cyd.</p>
<p><i>Additional Practice-Specific Protection Measures</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities will seek to emulate the functions of undisturbed conditions. • Activities will not result in significant loss of vegetation or disturbance which would negatively impact species' habitat, cover, food, etc.
<p>2. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645, 382, 614, 516)</p>	<p>This practice will be utilized to create, restore, and/or enhance upland habitat for wildlife species. This practice may be used to install shelter, cover, and food, establish vegetation for shelter, food, and enable movement, and for manipulating vegetation to sustain optimal habitat conditions.</p> <p>This practice may include the creation of infrastructure to accomplish the intended purpose of the practice, including a livestock pipeline, fence, and watering facility.</p> <p>Use of a pipeline for conveying water from an existing source of supply to points of its use for livestock; to shift livestock to constructed waters sources and away from streams and lakes. This practice is designed to reduce bank erosion, sediment yield, and manure entering watercourses. Occasionally, a pipeline may cross streams or water courses.</p> <p>The Watering Facility practice is limited to the device that actually holds the water. It is not the well, spring, or other source of undeveloped water.</p> <p>The construction a fence across a riparian corridor or in a sensitive habitat may be utilized to improve grazing and land use management to achieve restoration goals</p>
<p><i>Dimensions</i></p>	<p><u>Length</u>: Average: 50'; Max: 200' through riparian areas (includes 50' on each bank and across a stream or gully), and up to 10,000' through the upland areas.</p> <p><u>Width</u>: Average 15'; Max: 20'.</p>

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	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	TIER IV
	habitat occurs.	threatened or endangered species or their habitat occurs. •No streambank rock riprap protection of any kind.	endangered species or their habitat occurs, including in jurisdictional wetlands. • For projects involving streambank rock riprap protection or removal of in-stream barriers, early coordination with agencies will occur.	intrinsic potential (IP > 0.70) for coho salmon. •NMFS and DFG will be consulted early to discuss project inclusion in the Program, review design features, and methods to avoid take of coho.
Timing	<p>Project construction will avoid the primary rainy season and consider wildlife usage in the project area. The general construction season will be April 15 to October 31. All earthmoving activities will be completed by October 31, with the exception of revegetation activities, which may occur until November 30.</p> <p>Additional tier one projects, such as invasive species removal, are authorized to proceed through December 31st, if there is no documented occurrence of the species within the past two years or if protocol level surveys are conducted and no species are found.</p>	<p>Project construction will <u>entirely</u> avoid the rainy season and consider wildlife usage in the project area. The general construction season will be June 15 to October 31. All earthmoving activities will be completed by October 31, with the exception of revegetation, which may continue until November 30. Work outside this period may be authorized by agency staff on a site-specific basis.</p> <p>Work will be timed to avoid disturbing breeding birds in native habitat. Projects that could affect breeding birds will not begin until August 1 or until a qualified individual determines that a) the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant on the nest or parental care for survival, or b) the nest</p>	<p>All restrictions for TIER II apply, AND:</p> <p>Where special status species could be impacted by construction activities, work seasons will be further restricted by agency staff, including:</p> <p>If suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander or the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander occurs in the project area, construction activities shall begin after April 15.</p> <p>If potential habitat for the marbled murrelet occurs in the project area, work shall either begin after September 15.</p> <p>If potential habitat for the Mount Hermon June beetle is present in the project area, construction activities shall begin after August 15.</p>	<p>Project designs and plans will be reviewed and approved by biologists and/or engineers from NMFS and/or DFG prior to submittal of the PCN.</p> <p>Project sites with or adjacent to reaches known to support CCC Coho or within Core Implementation Areas (as defined in the 2010 CCC Coho Recovery Plan) will be snorkeled 1-2 weeks prior to project construction to determine potential presence of juvenile Coho*. Survey results, dewatering plans and fish relocation plans for each project will be submitted to NMFS for approval prior to diversion and dewatering.</p>

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	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	TIER IV
	<p>information: project location; the TIER the project falls under and why; project description and purpose/need (including environmental benefits expected); environmental setting (surrounding habitat, adjacent land uses); approved practices to be installed; project dimensions (length, width, volume of soil disturbance); and summary of any survey results.</p> <p>Projects may begin 10 working days after electronic notifications have been emailed, unless the RCDSCC is contacted by the agencies.</p>	<p>working days of receipt of a PCN. RCDSCC/NRCS will incorporate agency recommendations into the project description and may begin work without circulating a Final PCN. If discussions concerning recommended agency modifications are necessary, RCDSCC/NRCS will prepare and circulate a Final PCN for final project approval; work may begin 10 working days after the Final PCN is sent.</p> <p>Notifications will include a description of proposed water diversion or silt control, if working in a perennial stream and if flows will be isolated from the workspace.</p>	<p>to special status species/habitat, and all applicable environmental protection and mitigation measures.</p>	<p>submittal of the PCN.</p>

Description of Conservation Practices and Tier System

CONSERVATION PRACTICE (FOTG PRACTICE CODE)	TIER	PURPOSE AND COMMON USES
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645, 382, 614, 516)	I or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.
Wetland Management (657, 659, 356, 644)	II or III	Projects within a wetland, without T&E species or their habitat would fit in tier II; projects with T&E species, or habitat would fit in tier III.
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643)	I, II or III	Projects for which grading exceeds 100cyd in upland habitat would fit in tier I; projects within a riparian corridor would fit in tier II; projects with T&E species, or their habitat would fit in tier III.

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- Plans/maps showing property lines and APNs (NRCS and RCD will provide agencies with a key linking up the APNs for project locations and the landowner names);
- Indication of any easements or other restrictions applicable to the project area. NRCS and RCD shall inform participating landowners that: (1) landowners are responsible for providing the NRCS and RCD with accurate information about any easements and/or other restrictions affecting that portion of their property where the project would occur; (2) if landowners indicate that there are no such easements and/or restrictions when in fact this is inaccurate, or if they fail to identify all such easements and/or restrictions, and if project implementation leads to a conflict with the terms and conditions of any such easement(s) and/or restriction(s), then the involved landowner(s) shall be held responsible for rectifying the problems created by the project consistent with the terms and conditions of such easements and/or restrictions. When any easements and/or restrictions are identified, NRCS and RCD shall review such easements and/or restrictions (including coordinating with any third-party easement/restriction holders if there are any) to ensure that the project is consistent with them. The NRCS and RCD shall document recommendations on how the project should be modified, if necessary, to ensure consistency with any such restrictions and communicate this information to the landowner. If the landowner moves forward with project implementation and fails to incorporate such recommendations resulting in a conflict with any existing easements/restrictions, the landowner shall be held responsible for rectifying the problems consistent with the terms and conditions of such easements and/or restrictions. As described in the Project Description, and in the Cooperator Agreement itself, if a landowner (or Cooperator) does not carry out work consistent with project design standards and specifications, the NRCS and RCD shall notify the landowner and work directly with them to resolve the problem. If the landowner still fails to conform to the standards set forth in this Program, the NRCS or RCD shall notify the Cooperator that their activities are inconsistent with the standards and specifications contained in the Project Plans and Specifications and that the Cooperator's actions are no longer covered by the Program's permits and agreements. This easement/restriction language shall be included in the Cooperator Agreement signed by the participating landowners.
- For projects in Coastal Zone, a map showing trees that will be disturbed or removed, with description of how findings in County Code Chapter 16.34 (Significant Trees Protection) will be met for any proposed removal of a "significant tree" as defined in County Code Section 16.34.030.
- Indication if any part of the project area is within 40-feet of a County right-of-way.
- For any project that potentially could impact County rights-of-way and for which DPW Encroachment Permits would normally be needed, certification that plans

EXHIBIT B

Tier III and IV. By May 15th of each year, the RCD will send an electronic Preliminary PCN to the County Planning Department (attn: Environmental Planning) for each project planned for the upcoming construction season. Notifications will include all Tier II information, as well as the following:

- Description of any proposed wetland disturbance, including description of how project/practice will increase functional capacity of said wetland, and a description of the wetland delineation methodology (checkbox).
- Information on special status species/habitat present in relation to the work area, potential impacts to special status species/habitat, and all applicable environmental protection and mitigation measures.
- Results of the snorkel survey (Tier IV only).

All PCNs will include a cover sheet signed by the NRCS and the RCD certifying that each proposed project meets the criteria to qualify under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (i.e. Master Permit).

Review of Preliminary PCN and Issuance of Final PCN:

1. For Tier I, projects may begin 10 working days after electronic notifications have been emailed, unless the RCD is contacted by the County Planning Department.
2. For Tier II projects, County Planning Department staff will provide comments or recommended revisions within 21 working days of receipt of a PCN. RCD/NRCS will incorporate agency recommendations into the project description and may begin work without circulating a Final PCN. If discussions concerning recommended modifications are necessary, RCD/NRCS will prepare and circulate a Final PCN for final project approval; work may begin 10 working days after the Final PCN is sent.
3. After reviewing the Preliminary PCN, if County staff determines there are projects that require further review and/or modification to meet the criteria established by the Master Permit, the County will contact the NRCS/RCD to discuss those specific projects and resolve the outstanding issues. During these discussions, if the County determines that additional protection measures or other project revisions are required, they will work with the NRCS/RCD to determine how these measures/revisions will be incorporated into the project. The County and NRCS/RCD will attempt to achieve resolution of outstanding concerns within 21 days of the receipt of the Preliminary PCN. Following discussions with the County and other participating agencies, the RCD/NRCS will send a revised PCN (Final PCN) to the County and other participating agencies, incorporating any revisions necessary to meet the criteria established by the Master Permit that resulted from the County and participating agencies' review of the Preliminary PCN. If no comments are made on a DRAFT PCN, that PCN becomes final and is not resent to County staff.

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT D: The NRCS Approach to Conservation

The Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (RCDSCC) is proposing to lead this Program with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as a technical partner. The NRCS will assist Program participants by providing technical assistance and administers Farm Bill cost sharing programs to cooperators (private landowners working in partnership with the NRCS). NRCS assists landowners in developing a conservation plan for their property. NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, builds on the strength of more than 60 years of natural resource protection on private lands. The agency works closely with local Resource Conservation Districts and other agencies, organizations and individuals to set conservation priority goals, work with people on the land, and provide technical assistance.

NRCS employees have technical expertise and field experience to help land users address their natural resource concerns and maintain and improve their economic viability. Employees bring a variety of scientific and technical skills to support resource planning, including soil science, agronomy, biology, agroecology, range conservation, engineering, water quality, cultural resources, and economics. The technical support provided by the NRCS to agricultural operators is based on conservation systems designed to sustain and improve soil and water quality by addressing erosion control, pesticide and nutrient management, flood control, and streambank stabilization. They use a watershed approach to conservation that utilizes ecological principles and resource science to evaluate and manage the aggregate effect of multiple individual land uses. The biotechnical enhancement of natural systems is achieved through installation of the conservation practices. Farmers and ranchers are stewards of much of the nation's privately owned land. They work voluntarily with the NRCS to protect and improve the natural resources on and adjacent to their property. With their technical experience and landowner relationships, the NRCS is in a unique position to provide dependable technical advice to landowners to ensure the conservation of natural resources for current and future generations.

In Santa Cruz County, the NRCS operates out of a Program Delivery Point Office in Capitola shared with the RCD. NRCS resources are also available through the Salinas Service Center and Salinas Area Office located in Monterey County. The agency is available to provide resource information and technology including:

1. Soil resource data for the County through the Soil Survey;
2. Conservation systems to sustain and improve soil and water quality by addressing erosion control, pesticide and nutrient management, irrigation water management, wetlands conservation and restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, flood control, and streambank stabilization;
3. A watershed approach to conservation that utilizes ecological principles and resource science to evaluate and manage the aggregate effects of many individual land uses;
4. A plant material program that introduces new ways to use native and introduced plants to protect and restore water quality and wetlands, and reduce soil erosion; and
5. Techniques for assessing and predicting erosion, agricultural nonpoint-source water pollution, and the effects of agricultural practices and management decisions on farm and ranch economics.

EXHIBIT B

	NRCS PLANNING STEP	DOCUMENT USED	RESULTS
6	alternative solutions	<i>Management System (RMS) Guidesheet.</i>	systems') that result in a significant positive improvement in all resource problem categories are identified as alternative systems in the guidesheet. Other groups of practices are also listed as additional alternatives as long as they do not result in a negative effect on resource problems. This process is also known as an "alternatives analysis."
Step 7	Client determines course of action	<i>Conservation Plan</i>	Assist cooperator in selecting a system of optimal conservation practices to maximize resource protection and enhancement. Prepare a conservation plan and specifications.
Step 8	Client implements plan	<i>Standards, Specifications, Practice Requirement Worksheet</i>	Practices are implemented according to NRCS recommended design, standards, and specifications and with NRCS on-site technical support, if needed.
Step 9	Evaluation of results of plan	<i>Tech Notes and Status Reviews</i>	Evaluate effectiveness of plan and make adjustments as needed.

***Additional Documents Consulted:** 7.5" topographic maps, aerial photos, soil survey: LCC, prime soils, soils of statewide importance, unique soils, HEL, hydric conditions, 303(d) list, Cultural Resources, NWI, EPA: ozone and PM10, National Range and Pasture Handbook, CDFG Rarefind Database

During the interdisciplinary planning process, all potential impacts of the preferred alternative are documented. This document is then placed in the project case file. The document identifies all short term, long term, and cumulative effects of the proposed actions as well as the on-site and off-site impacts.

If significant adverse environmental impacts are expected to result from a project, the land user is encouraged to consider alternative actions, or may be directed to prepare a project specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). NRCS/RCD staff discourages projects that require an EIS. Typically, for small conservation projects, the assessment indicates that there are no significant adverse impacts or that long-term beneficial impacts outweigh short-term adverse impacts, and the conservation planner is directed to proceed with the plan of work.

Protection of Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources Review

The effects of conservation activities on historic properties are considered in the earliest planning stages and that cultural resource protection is accomplished as efficiently as possible. For all conservation projects covered by the proposed permit coordination program, the potential impacts to cultural resources will be identified and examined and no significant adverse effects will result.

EXHIBIT R

EXHIBIT E:**Recommended Plant Species for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program**

Approved Non-Invasive *Non-Native* Species
(Numbers in right columns refer to NRCS practice number)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	1/	2/			3/		
				342	342	393	412	342	393	412
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Australian Saltbush	F	P	X	X			X		
<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Common Mustard	F	A/Bi	X	X			X		
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa	F	P		X			X		
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	F	P		X			X		
<i>Vicia atropurpurea</i>	Purple Vetch	F	A	X	X			X		
<i>Vicia dasycarpa</i>	Lana Woolypod Vetch	F	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Agropyron intermedium</i>	Intermediate Wheatgrass	G	P			X		X	X	
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oats	G	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i>	Barnyard Grass	G	A					X	X	
<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>	Luna Wheatgrass	G	P				X			X
<i>Festuca ovina glauca</i>	Sheep fescue	G	P			X			X	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Common Barley	G	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Lippia</i>	Matgrass	G	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	Wimmera-62 ryegrass	G	A					X		
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Bluegrass	G	A		X ^a	X ^a	X ^a			
<i>Secale cereale</i>	Cereal Rye	G	A	X	X	X ^b		X	X	
<i>Sorghum sudanese</i>	Sudangrass	G	A			X		X		
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson Clover	F	A	X	X					
	"Merced" Cereal Rye	G	A			X		X	X	
	Red Oats	G	A	X	X	X		X	X	
	Sterile Rye	G	A	X	X			X		
	Sterile Wheat	G	A	X	X	X		X	X	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	S	P		X			X		
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Lemon Bottlebrush	S	P		X			X		
<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	Dwarf rosemary	S	P		X			X		

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT F:

Recommended Plant Species for the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program

Approved *Native* Species

(Numbers in right columns refer to NRCS practice number)

				1/	2/				3/			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	342	342	393	412	342	393	412		
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	F	P	X	X			X	X			
Anaphalis margaritacea	Pearly Everlasting	F	P	X	X			X				
Asclepias fascicularis	Milkweed	F	P	X	X			X				
Aster chilensis	Aster	F	P	X	X	-	-	X	-	-		
Atriplex patula	Fat-Hen Saltbush	F	A	X	X			X				
Euthemia occidentalis	Goldenrod	F	P	X	X	X		X	X			
Heliotropium curassivicum var. oculatum	Heliotrope	F	P	X	X			X				
Potentilla gracilis	Slender Cinquefoil	F	P					X				
Stachys ajugoides or Stachys bullata	Hedgenettle	F	P	X	X			X				
Agrostis densiflora	California Bentgrass	G	P	X			X			X		
Agrostis exerata	Spike Bentgrass	G	P	X						X		
Deschampsia caespitosa ^b	Tufted Hairgrass	G	P	X				X				
Deschampsia elongata ^b	Slender Hairgrass	G	P	X				X				
Deschampsia holciformis ^b	Pacific Hairgrass	G	P	X			X	X		X		
Distichlis spicata	Seashore Saltgrass	G	P	X				X				
Elymus glaucus ^b	Blue Wildrye	G	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

EXHIBIT B

Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	1/	2/			3/		
				342	342	393	412	342	393	412
Juncus phaeocephalus	Brown Headed Rush	GL	P	X	X	X		X	X	
Scirpus americanus	Three-Square Bullrush	GL	P	X	X	X		X		
Scirpus microcarpus	Small-fruited Bulrush	GL	P	X	X	X		X		
Artemisia californica	California Sagebrush	S	P	X						
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	S	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Atriplex lentiformis	Quail Bush	S	P	X	X			X		
Atriplex lentiformis ssp. Breweri	Brewers Salt brush	S	P	X	X			X		
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Brush	S	P	X	X			X		
Baccharis viminea	Mule Fat	S	P	X	X			X		
Cephalanthus occidentalis	CA buttonwillow	S	P	X	X			X		
Cercis occidentalis	Western redbud	S	P	X	X			X		
Eriogonum arborescens	Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat	S	P	X	X			X		
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California Buckwheat	S	P	X	X			X		
Helianthemum scoparium	Rockrose	S	P	X	X			X		
Holodiscus discolor	Oceanspray	S	P	X	X			X		
Lonicera involucrata	Black Twinberry	S	P	X	X					
Malosma laurina	Sumac	S	P	X	X			X		
Polygonum paronychi ^a	Beach Knotweed	S	P	X	X			X		

EXHIBIT B

				1/	2/	3/				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Tree Shrub Grass Forb	Ann/ Per	342	342	393	412	342	393	412
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	T	P	X	X			X		
Platanus racemosa ^c	Western Sycamore	T	P	X	X			X		
Populus fremontiic	Fremont Cottonwood	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix hindsiana	Sandbar Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix hookeriana	Coastal Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix laevigata	Red Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix lasiandra	Yellow Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Salix sitchensis	Coulter Willow	T	P	X	X			X		
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	T	P	X	X					
Umbellularia californica	California Bay	T	P	X	X					
	Clements Lotus			X				X		

1. Natural Areas Definition: Areas where primary goal is restoration to native conditions and ecological functions.
 2. Natural-Working Land Interface Definition: Area where primary purpose is to buffer natural areas from impact of working landscapes. Periodic management and/or disturbance may be required to sustain function (e.g., sediment removal, replanting, harvesting biomass and nutrients, mowing, etc.)
 3. Farmscaping Definition: Working land area where the primary goal is crop production for harvest. Intensive management and regular disturbance occurs though some non-crop plants are established to protect crops (e.g. erosion-control, insect habitat, wind or dust control).
- a/ Use local divisions
b/ Use local divisions or do not plant within 1 mile of a natural area
c/ Concern with introducing disease into plant community through contaminated nursery stock

EXHIBIT B

Scientific Name	Common Name	Do not Plant in Project Area ¹	Eradicate in Project Area ²
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian rye grass	?	x—
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye grass	x	?
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	horehound	x	x
<i>Medicago hispida</i>	bur clover	—	—
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	white sweet clover	—	?
<i>Myosotis latifolia</i>	Forget-me-not	x	x—
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	x	x—
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	kikuyu grass	x	x
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Harding grass	x	x
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust	x	x
<i>Rubus procerus</i>	Himalaya Berry	x	x
<i>Senecio mikanooides</i>	German ivy	x	x
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	common groundsel	—	—
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk thistle	—	x—
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	common sow thistle	—	—
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	x	x—
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	salt cedar, tamarisk	x	x
<i>Tradescantia sp.</i>	Wandering Jew	x	x
<i>Ulex europaea</i>	Gorse	x	x—
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle	x	x
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	cocklebur	—	x

Key to Symbols:

(—) indicates that species is not commonly planted

(x) indicates species is uncontrollable;

(x—) indicates that species may be uncontrollable depending on patch size

(?) indicates more research is needed on the spreading of these species through landowner implementation and ability to control these species once established. As with all species in this table, the proliferation of these species will be minimized as part of the program

(**) indicates species is much worse than other species

EXHIBIT B

**Required Findings for the
Amendment of the Master Permit for Environmental Enhancement Projects
Program - Exhibit C**

Riparian Exception Findings:

- 1. That there are special circumstances or conditions affecting the property.**

Planning staff shall review each year's Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to ensure that for each proposed Master Permit authorized environmental enhancement project in a riparian corridor, one or more special circumstance or conditions affecting each subject property exists. The special circumstances requiring some Master Permit authorized projects/conservation practices to take place in riparian corridors are that riparian corridors are often where remedial or enhancement projects are needed. Many of the proposed remedial or enhancement projects must be undertaken within or near riparian corridors because this is where the problem to be remedied occurs (e.g., stream bank erosion problems, degraded fish and/or riparian habitat, etc.).

- 2. That the exception is necessary for the proper design and function of some permitted or existing activity on the property.**

Planning staff shall review each year's PCN to ensure that, for each proposed Master Permit authorized environmental enhancement project in a riparian corridor, a riparian exception would be necessary for the proper design and function of some permitted or existing activity on the property. For such projects, a Riparian Exception would be necessary because any Master Permit authorized projects that would take place in a riparian corridor would be necessary for the proper functioning of existing natural processes on the site (e.g., by creating of a natural non-erosive condition where an erosive condition previously existed, by enhancing natural riparian habitat, etc.).

- 3. That the granting of the exception will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to other property downstream or in the area in which the project is located.**

As part of the PCN review process, Planning staff will ensure that any Master Permit authorized project be conditioned to ensure that no detrimental downstream conditions (e.g., increased flooding), or other potentially injurious conditions, would be created. Authorized projects would generally improve downstream conditions.

- 4. That the granting of the exception, in the coastal zone, will not reduce or adversely impact the riparian corridor, and there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative.**

As part of the PCN review process, Planning staff will ensure that any Master Permit authorized projects that would take place in a riparian corridor would be conditioned so as to improve riparian conditions and would, therefore, generally be the least environmentally damaging alternative (especially compared to not doing the project at all). The least environmentally damaging alternative method for accomplishing the project's goals would also be required, as per the general condition listed in Exhibit A, #1.

EXHIBIT C

4. That the project conforms with the public access, recreation, and visitor-serving policies, standards and maps of the General Plan and Local Coastal Program land use plan, specifically Chapter 2: figure 2.5 and Chapter 7, and, as to any development between and nearest public road and the sea or the shoreline of any body of water located within the coastal zone, such development is in conformity with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act commencing with section 30200.

The Master Permit conditions of approval will ensure that all eligible environmental enhancement projects are consistent with Chap. 2: Fig. 2.5 and Chap. 7 of the General Plan/LCP. Moreover, since Coastal Commission staff will be reviewing all plans for eligible projects within the Coastal Zone, it is assured that the public access and recreation provisions of the Coastal Act will be followed.

5. That the proposed development is in conformity with the certified Local Coastal Program.

The Master Permit conditions of approval will ensure that all eligible environmental enhancement projects are consistent with the policies of the General Plan/LCP (i.e., to protect and enhance riparian and aquatic habitats, to protect visual resources, to protect public access, to enhance natural processes, etc).

Development Permit Findings:

(as required to be included with all Coastal Development Permit findings)

1. That the proposed location of the project and the conditions under which it would be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or the general public, and will not result in inefficient or wasteful use of energy, and will not be materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.

As part of the PCN review process, Planning staff will ensure that all projects eligible under the Master Permit program will be conditioned to ensure that hazardous conditions are not created and will, in fact, result in an improvement to the environment and public welfare. None of the eligible environmental enhancement projects will involve the use of energy except during their construction and occasional maintenance and, therefore, will not result in inefficient or wasteful use of energy.

2. That the proposed location of the project and the conditions under which it would be operated or maintained will be consistent with all pertinent County ordinances and the purpose of the zone district in which the site is located.

The Master Permit conditions of approval will ensure that all eligible environmental enhancement projects comply with all pertinent County ordinances, including the following, as applicable:

- Encroachment Permit Regulations – County Code Chapter 9.70
- Zoning Ordinance – County Code Chapter 13.10

EXHIBIT C

Significant Tree Removal Findings:

Per the Significant Trees Protection ordinance (County Code Sec. 16.34.060) one or more of the following findings would be made for any Master Permit authorized project within the Coastal Zone that would result in the removal of a "significant tree" (as defined in County Code Sec. 16.34.030). These findings would appear in the Pre-Construction Notification and would be reviewed by Coastal Commission staff in addition to County (i.e., Environmental Planning) staff.

1. **That the significant tree is dead or is likely to promote the spread of insects or disease.**
2. **That the removal is necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare.**
3. **That removal of a non-native tree is part of a plan approved by the county to restore native vegetation and landscaping to an area.**
4. **That removal will not involve a risk of adverse environmental impacts such as degrading scenic resources.**
5. **That removal is necessary for active or passive solar facilities, and that mitigation of visual impacts will be provided.**
6. **That removal is necessary in conjunction with another permit to allow the property owner an economic use of the property consistent with the land use designation of the Local Coastal Program land use plan.**
7. **That removal is part of a project involving selective harvesting for the purpose of enhancing the visual qualities of the landscape or for opening up the display of important views from public places.**
8. **That removal is necessary for new or existing agricultural purposes consistent with other County policies and that mitigation of visual impacts will be provided.**

EXHIBIT C

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Application Number: 101121
Project Location: County-wide

Project Description:

Proposal to expand the definition for restoration and management of rare and declining habitats, and to add the practices of wetland management and upland habitat management to the existing Master Permit for Environmental Enhancement Projects, #03-0513

Person or Agency Proposing Project: Resource Conservation Service of Santa Cruz County

Staff Contact and Phone Number: Matt Johnston (831) 454-3201

- A. ☐ The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B. ☐ The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C. ☐ **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D. ☐ **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).
- E. ☒ **Categorical Exemption**

Class 8: ACTIONS BY REGULATORY AGENCIES FOR PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT:

Class 8 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

F. Reasons why the project is exempt: This project will amend an existing permit to allow further practices to be conducted under the umbrella permit held by the Resource Conservation District. All practices encompassed in this permit have been thoroughly vetted by local, state, and federal resource agencies and have been conditioned to comply with environmental regulations at all levels. All projects conducted under the blanket permit are for the enhancement of environmental resources.

Staff Planner: Matt Johnston Date: March 7, 2011

EXHIBIT D