
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 16, 2013

In the Matter of

Water Quality Certification

for

Sonoma County Water Agency
Stream Maintenance Program – Modified Easement 2013
Fountaingrove Creek Sediment Removal and Bank Stabilization Project
WDID No. 1B09026WNSO

APPLICANT: Sonoma County Water Agency
RECEIVING WATER: Fountaingrove Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.22
COUNTY: Sonoma
FILE NAME: Sonoma County Water Agency Stream Maintenance Program –
Modified Easement 2013 Fountaingrove Creek Sediment
Removal and Bank Stabilization Project

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On February 27, 2013, Sonoma County Water Agency (Applicant) filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) for activities associated with the Sonoma County Water Agency Stream Maintenance Program – Modified Easement 2013 Fountaingrove Creek Sediment Removal and Bank Stabilization Project (Project). The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on July 10, 2013, and posted information describing the Project on the Regional Water Board’s website. We did not receive any public comments on the Project. The Project is located at approximately 3885 Old Redwood Highway, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, at latitude 38.481685°N, and

longitude 122.734466°W. The Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) associated with Fountaingrove Creek, a linear water course within the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Area, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.22. Temporary impact to bed and bank of Fountaingrove Creek is approximately 0.033 acres/100 linear feet, and permanent impact to approximately 0.006 acres/35 linear feet.

2. The primary purpose of the Project is to remove accumulated sediment from the creek that is reducing hydraulic capacity, increasing flood potential and increasing bank erosion within the creek; and to perform bank stabilization to repair the erosion damage. The Project involves removal of approximately 160 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from an area of approximately 40 feet upstream of Old Redwood Highway, and 60 feet downstream of Old Redwood Highway, and also includes removal of sediment from within the box culverts under Old Redwood Highway. Additional work includes bank stabilization of a 35-foot section downstream of the box culvert on the left bank; this portion of work will repair the stream bank and undercut area of the parking lot. Vegetation removal from the bottom of the channel and trimming of selected trees will also be included in the project work.
3. The project is planned for summer-fall 2013. Work is planned to last up to 15 working days.
4. Mitigation includes onsite improvement of the existing low flow channel. Native riparian trees will be installed to enhance the existing canopy, and disturbed areas will be seeded with native grasses and covered with erosion control fabric. Affected instream vegetation will be replaced with native emergent species. All work will be done according to the guidelines within the *Sonoma County Water Agency Stream Maintenance Program Manual*.
5. The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has also applied to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement.
6. The Sonoma County Water Agency, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has produced an Environmental Impact Report and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2005082131) in 2009, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.
7. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification," which requires compliance with all conditions of this water quality certification.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Receiving Water: Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.22

Filled or Excavated Area: Permanent impact to waters of the U.S.:
0.006 acres/35 linear feet
Temporary impact to waters of the U.S.:
0.033 acres/100 linear feet

Excavated Volume: 160 cubic yards of sediment

Latitude/Longitude: 38.481685°N / 122.734466°W

Expiration: August 16, 2018

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Sonoma County Water Agency Stream Maintenance Program – Modified Easement 2013 Fountaingrove Creek Sediment Removal and Bank Stabilization Project (WDID No. 1B09026WNSO), as described in the application, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, provided that the Applicant complies with the following terms and conditions:

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

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3867.
2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3855, subdivision (b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. The validity this certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3833, and owed by the Applicant.
4. The Regional Water Board shall be notified annually and in writing at least five working days (working days are Monday – Friday) prior to the commencement of

ground disturbing activities, with details regarding the construction schedule, in order to allow staff to be present onsite during construction, and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the Project.

5. The federal antidegradation policy requires that state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Regional Water Board's Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the State and federal antidegradation policies. This Order is consistent with applicable federal and State antidegradation policies, as it does not authorize the discharge of increased concentrations of pollutants or increased volumes of treated wastewater.
6. Any water pumped from the work area shall not be discharged back to the creek; it shall be pumped to a tank or other conveyance and disposed of at a legal point of appropriate disposal.
7. Applicant shall use wildlife-friendly 100% biodegradable erosion control products/BMPs. For purposes of this Order, photodegradable synthetic products are not considered biodegradable. Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products, that contain synthetic (e.g., plastic or nylon) netting or materials for permanent erosion control (i.e., erosion control materials to be left in place for two years or after the completion date of the Project). If the Applicant finds that erosion control netting or products have entrapped or harmed wildlife, the Applicant shall remove the netting or product and replace it with wildlife-friendly biodegradable products. Applicant shall remove any remaining synthetic netting or materials remaining at the end of two years, or sooner.
8. The Project shall be implemented according to the submitted application materials and the findings in this certification.
9. BMPs shall be implemented as proposed in the application materials. BMPs for erosion, sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place at commencement of, during and after any ground clearing activities or any other project activities that could result in erosion or sediment discharges to surface water. Severe and unseasonal rain events are becoming more frequent due to the effects of climate change. Therefore, BMPs shall be immediately available for deployment at all times to prevent discharges to waters of the state.
10. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction

or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this Order, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State. When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area.

11. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the Project site to document compliance with this certification.
12. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, lakes, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented including stopping work. The Regional Water Board shall be notified promptly and in no case more than 24 hours after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
13. Prior to implementing any change to the Project that may have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Order, the Applicant shall obtain the written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this Order, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement action(s).
14. All Project work shall be conducted as described in this Order and in the application submitted by the Applicant. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this Order, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement actions.
15. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Order and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ to any contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility company(ies) conducting work on the Project, and shall require that copies remain in their possession at the work site. The Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all work conducted by its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility companies is performed in accordance with the information provided by the Applicant to the Regional Water Board.
16. The Applicant shall implement the Project in accordance with the Project described in the application and the findings above, and shall comply with all applicable water quality standards as detailed in the Basin Plan.
17. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the Project.
18. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or threatened discharge to any waters of the State including dry portions of the shoreline. At no time shall the Applicant or its

contractors allow use of any vehicle or equipment, which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.

19. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted and approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
20. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable state or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Order. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the State Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the State Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Order, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order as appropriate to ensure compliance.
21. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the Applicant, the Applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this Order by letter and shall forward a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the above address.

To discharge dredged or fill material under this Order, the successor-in-interest must send to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer a written request for transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, and the address and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for contact with the Regional Water Board.

The request must also describe any changes to the Project proposed by the successor-in-interest or confirm that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the Project as described in this Order. Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited to and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the Applicant's Project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

22. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on August 16, 2018. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830.

Original Signed By

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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Weblink: State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017 -DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification can be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Original to: Sonoma County Water Agency / Grant Davis, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Copy to: Sonoma County Water Agency / Keenan Foster, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403