

March 14, 2011

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

BoDean Company Inc.
Blue Rock Quarry Expansion
WDID No. 1B06058WNSO
Sonoma County

On May 18, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Jeff Longcrier of North Coast Resource Management, on behalf of the BoDean Company, Inc. (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the Blue Rock Quarry Expansion (Project), located in Sonoma County. The Project is located at 7888 Highway 116, Forestville, CA, latitude 38.470456° N and longitude 122.915295° W. The Project involves expansion of the current rock quarry by approximately 24 more acres. The proposed Project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 600 linear feet of waters of the State associated with removal of an unnamed linear watercourse tributary to Green Valley Creek in the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The purpose of the project is to expand the existing Blue Rock Quarry by approximately 24 acres. The existing rock quarry adjacent to the drainage will be expanded across the area currently occupied by the watercourse, and the drainage will be incorporated into the quarry area. As part of this expansion, six hundred linear feet of a linear watercourse will be excavated. Drainage from up gradient of the removed linear watercourse section will be rerouted to the new quarry area. The topography of the area will be altered by removing the topsoil and bedrock during quarrying activities; the impacted area will be excavated for its useful aggregate. Drainage that is currently flowing southeast out of the project area in the impacted linear watercourse will be captured within drainage swales developed on the terraced slopes of the resulting rock pit and will be conveyed into a large pond/sediment basin. The drainage from the project site, both prior to and following operations, eventually flows into Green Valley Creek, a tributary to the Russian River. Useable timber on the expansion area will be harvested. Applicant states that the time period to complete the expansion and restore the impacted area under their reclamation plan will be approximately 20 years or longer, depending on the market for aggregate.

Compensatory mitigation will consist of three separate projects.

- The first mitigation project has been undertaken prior to issuance of the Water Quality Certification. It consists of improving a road along and crossing a linear watercourse that is similar to the one being impacted, in order to reduce sediment delivery as well as improvement of its riparian area and habitat value. This linear watercourse is approximately 749 feet long and is west of the project area, and is tributary to Green Valley Creek. The previously existing access road is located adjacent to the watercourse and the drainage of this road had been diverted and was contributing sediment into the watercourse. The road has been reengineered to properly drain with appropriate crossings being installed that will reduce the amount of sediment being introduced into the watershed. This project will also restore the flow to the natural channel of

the watercourse. Native riparian trees and shrubs have been planted in areas along the stream that will benefit from added stabilization, habitat, shade, and organic material delivery to the watercourse. This project will help to compensate for the temporal loss of waters of the State. A deed restriction will be recorded with the County of Sonoma to permanently protect this watercourse and mitigation area.

- The second mitigation project, which is already in construction, consists of creation of 525 feet of linear watercourse within the reclamation area of the gravel quarry. These created linear watercourses will be planted with a mix of native riparian plantings to establish a mature riparian community, both in composition and function to replace the impacted linear water course as in-kind mitigation. A deed restriction will be recorded with the County of Sonoma to permanently protect the area of these watercourses.
- The third mitigation project consists of an off-site fish habitat improvement project that has been completed. The project consisted of replacement of a failing culvert that was a partial fish barrier on Green Valley Creek, with a bridge structure that allows fish passage. The applicant contributed gravel to this project to help in its implementation.
- The onsite mitigation areas will be monitored for success and performance, with annual reports being submitted to the Regional Water Board.

Sonoma County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, issued a Notice of Determination for a Final Environmental Impact Report, (SCH No. 2001032062) in 2006, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The Applicant has received a Lake Streambed Alteration Agreement, (Notification Number: 1600-2009-0202-3) from the California Department of Fish and Game, on November 9, 2009.

The Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, (File number 25955N).

Staff is proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov, within 21 days of posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this Project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.