

May 17, 2011

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

Monte Rio Recreation and Park District
Seasonal Public Beach Grooming Project
WDID No. 1B05075WNSO
Sonoma County

On May 5, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Roberta Pollard, on behalf of Monte Rio Recreation and Park District (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with the Monte Rio Recreation and Park District Seasonal Public Beach Grooming Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 0.1 acres of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Unit 114.11 within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed Project is located at the Monte Rio Public Beach, 20400 Bohemian Highway, within the town of Monte Rio, latitude 38.466558°N, longitude 123.009683°W, on the Russian River, in Sonoma County.

The primary purpose of the proposed Project is to prepare the beach for use by the public during the summer months. Minor grading of the beach is proposed.

The proposed Project involves the following:

- The installation of a four foot wide panelized boardwalk system from the lower parking area to the edge of the Russian River. The boardwalk will be set directly upon the natural bar utilizing the existing sloped beach gravel surface. The boardwalk panels will be leveled and stabilized using hand tools, where necessary. Work will be limited to the length and width of the boardwalk.
- Filling of a seasonal drainage erosion gully caused by road runoff from a culvert that drains Highway 116. The area to be filled is approximately 200 feet long, four feet wide, and four feet deep. Beach material will be graded into the gully, and the total area of grading shall be done to cause the minimum disturbance, and shall not exceed a total of 0.1 acres (4,400 square feet).
- Smoothing of a parking area, above the beach and the ordinary high water level. An earthen berm approximately three feet high, boulders, or other barrier, may be installed between the parking area and the beach to prevent vehicles from entering the beach. Any materials used that could be considered harmful to water quality shall be removed to an area outside of river flow before the wet season. A non-toxic dust suppressant may be used on the parking area to abate dust creation.
- A tent and various seating may be temporarily installed on the beach.
- Boardwalk and other materials will be removed from the beach before the wet season.

Proposed Project activity is expected to last for one week at the most, and may commence on an annual basis no sooner than May 15, and may be later, depending on water level.

The proposed Project does not involve mass grading of the beach, any removal of sediment or beach aggregate material from the beach, nor any work within the wetted portion of the Russian River. Filling of scour holes around bridge piers is not being proposed as part of the Project.

A related activity, however not covered under this proposed certification, that will occur at the head of the sandbar on this beach, involves replacement of gravel that was previously removed from the beach by a third party without regulatory agency authorization. This replacement of gravel is being regulated by Army Corps of Engineers under a request to implement initial corrective measures. It is expected that this work will take place in the fall, after the beach season, and before any high water events. The gravel will be deposited at the head of bar by heavy equipment, in a crescent shape, planted with many willow sprigs, and will approximate the shape of a natural gravel bar. This replacement project may reinitiate the natural gravel bar forming and fluvial processes.

Compensatory mitigation for the proposed Project is not necessary as it involves minor grading with temporary impacts.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the proposed Project pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404. The applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The Monte Rio Recreation & Park District, as lead CEQA Agency, have determined that this proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 11, Section 15311 – Accessory Structures) and have filed a Notice of Exemption for this proposed Project on April 23, 2004, per CEQA requirements.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed activities including maps and detailed design drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

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. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3858 (a). The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal

agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If conditions require that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification. 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, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

110517_Monte_Rio_Beach_PN