

August 10, 2011

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

Rief Property Seasonal Creek Improvement
WDID No. 1B11151WNSO

Sonoma County

On August 1, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Dieter Rief (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with the Rief Property Seasonal Creek Improvement (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to approximately 36 linear feet of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with an unnamed tributary to Matanzas Creek within the Santa Rosa Subarea No. 114.22, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project is located at 4300 Grange Road, Santa Rosa, latitude 38.388944°N, longitude 122.638331°W, in Sonoma County.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is for bank stabilization, riparian enhancement, the installation of a culvert, and the placement of irrigation pipes across the creek.

Bank stabilization is proposed for 15 to 20 feet of an unnamed tributary to Matanzas Creek. The unnamed tributary enters the western boundary of the Rief property via an under road drainage culvert from an upland property. Shortly after the point of entry the creek abruptly turns; it is in this area that the creek bank is eroding and the applicant proposes to use a combination of rip-rap and willow plantings for bank stabilization. The rip-rap will be placed by hand at a 2:1 slope. Approximately 1,000 feet of riparian corridor will be planted with a mix of native trees and shrubs for habitat enhancement, increase shade/thermal reduction, and for bank stabilization. The applicant proposes to install a culvert under a section of roadway that has been operating as a wet-ford area. Three 18 inch diameter culverts, approximately 18 feet in length, will be placed using a backhoe or excavator and a soil compactor. The culvert will be set slightly below grade to allow for the deposition of natural creek bed material and the inlet and outlet of the culvert will be armored with rock. At three locations of the creek, the applicant proposes to install three inch diameter PVC pipe for irrigation purposes and to supply farm animals with water. A six inch trench will be dug to a depth of one foot, the pipes placed, and the native soil replaced. In addition, the applicant proposes to remove accumulated sediment, within the stream diversion structure, to an upland area eliminating the potential of re-entry to the creek.

Construction is planned for the dry season when there is no flow in the creek. If there is flow in the creek, appropriate methods will be taken to bypass flow around the work area. Construction is planned for a total of four to eight weeks and is tentatively expected to take place late August or September, 2011.

Compensatory mitigation for the proposed project will consist of the above mentioned stream bank/riparian restoration and the removal and management of non-native species. Success criteria will be an 85% survival rate of the plantings over a 5 year period with annual reporting submitted to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Non-compensatory mitigation for this project includes re-vegetation of disturbed areas, as appropriate, and the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control, and for heavy equipment use near a waterway.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404. California Department of Fish and Game; Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is not required for the project.

The project is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b). The project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, 15304 [Minor Alterations to Land]. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062 after issuance of the 401 Certification order.

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.

Regional Water Board staff are 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, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.