

September 8, 2011

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

Jenner Headlands Sediment Reduction Culvert Project 2011
WDID No. 1B11156WNSO

Sonoma County

On August 10, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Kara Heckert of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District on behalf of Mr. Ralph Benson of the Sonoma Land Trust (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with the Jenner Headlands Sediment Reduction Project 2011 (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to approximately 60 linear feet, of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with three unnamed creeks two tributary to the Pacific Ocean within the Russian Gulch Hydrologic Area No. 113.90, Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No. 113.00, and one tributary to the Russian River Estuary, within the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub-Area 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00.

The proposed project is located north of the town of Jenner, within the Jenner Headlands Preserve, latitude 38.453078°N, longitude 123.118569°W, in Sonoma County.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to replace three failing culverts to prevent approximately 560 cubic yards of soil/sediment from being delivered to waters of the State.

The project includes the replacement of three actively failing culverts. The culverts are on year-round primary access roads. Culverts replacement and restoration/best management practices will conform to the Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads (1994), and the California Department of Fish and Game Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, respectively.

Construction is planned for the dry season when there is no flow in the creeks. If there is water encountered within the work areas, appropriate methods will be taken to dewater the work area, and discharge the water to an upland area. Construction is planned for a total of one to two weeks and is tentatively expected to take place in September and October of 2011 or 2012.

Compensatory mitigation for the project is unnecessary as the project is replacing existing failing culverts, and should prevent further delivery of sediment. 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, and to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

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, 15333 [Small Habitat Restoration Projects]. The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, as Lead Agency has completed a Notice of Exemption (SCH No. 2011088028) for the project in order to comply with CEQA. 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.