

September 15, 2011

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

Pine Flat Road Culvert Replacement
Property of Keith Lindstrom
WDID No. 1B11161WNSO

Sonoma County

On August 23, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Kara Heckert of Sotoyome Resource Conservation District on behalf of Mr. Keith Lindstrom (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, water quality certification (Certification) for proposed activities associated with the Pine Flat Road Culvert Replacement Project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to approximately 0.004 acres, 35 linear feet, of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with the Russian River within the Sulpher Creek Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project site is located 9.5 miles east of the intersection of Highway 128 and Pine Flat Road east of the town of Geyserville, in Sonoma County, California (APN's 114-100-005, 141-100-008, 141-100-007), latitude 38.700833°N, longitude 122.770°W.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to replace an existing, failing culvert and rebuild a summer residence destroyed by The Geysers Fire. The culvert is located on a parcel owned by the National Audubon Society, Inc. The property at 9850 Pine Flat Road has a "Road Easement" (easement) granted to them by the National Audubon Society for private road purposes. The rights granted by the easement allow the property owner at 9850 Pine Flat Road to maintain and repair the road as necessary.

The seasonal residence at 9850 Pine Flat Road was destroyed by The Geysers Fire in 2004, for reconstruction activities to be permitted on the parcel the access road must meet county requirements for fire access. The existing culvert is short and set very high in the road prism which is leading to erosion issues at the inlet and outlet of the culvert. The existing 36 inch diameter by 16 foot long culvert will be replaced with a more appropriately sized and aligned, steel-corrugated, 36 inch diameter by 36 foot long culvert. Rip-rap will be placed at the inlet and outlet of the culvert to prevent high velocity flows from eroding the channel bed and banks at the culvert outlet and the eroding road slopes will be built out to a stable 2:1 slope. The rip-rap and the bottom of the channel, adjacent to the inlet and outlet, will be planted with willows to stabilize the slope and increase shade canopy over the channel.

Reconstruction of the residence will be of similar size and in the same location as the original structure. During construction stormwater erosion control measures will be in place including; silt fences, wattles, straw ground covering, and reseeding all disturbed

soil with native grass. The access road to the residence is flat and does not show signs of erosion.

The structures and plantings will be monitored for at least five years; the plantings will have at least an 85% survival rate and the culvert will be monitored for designed purpose; annual reports will be submitted to the Regional Water Board. Appropriate construction stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be employed to prevent erosion and delivery of sediment from the site while it is being constructed and after it is finished. Work on the culvert is proposed for the dry season, before October 15, and is expected to take approximately 2 days. The construction dates for the residence have yet to be determined.

The project will reduce sediment delivery, increase shade and habitat, and reduce temperature; thus, no compensatory mitigation is required. In addition, the applicant will remove Armenian blackberry from the project area to the extent practical. BMP's will be implemented during and after the building construction activities, thereby limiting impacts to water quality.

A Vegetative Management and Defensible Space plan will be developed for the project per Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services requirements.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The applicant has received a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (No.1600-2011-0304-R3). The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, as lead agency for CEQA, has submitted a Negative Declaration for this project to the State Clearinghouse in order to comply with CEQA (No. 2005062078). The Regional Water Board will consider the environmental document and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

The Russian River is identified as impaired on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. The Russian River is listed as impaired for sediment and temperature. At present, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have not been established for this water body. If TMDLs are established and implementation plans are adopted for this watershed prior to the expiration date of the requested Certification, the Regional Water Board may revise the provisions of that Certification to address actions identified in such action plans. Bank erosion is identified as a source contributing to the sediment impairment. Removal of riparian vegetation is identified as contributing to temperature impairment. Activities that will be authorized by the pending certification are designed to increase riparian vegetation and reduce sediment discharges from bank erosion. Actions authorized by this Order require implementation of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and planting of more riparian zone shade vegetation at and near the project site. Accordingly, this Order is consistent with, and implements BMPs that would attenuate sediment and temperature adverse impacts.

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 notice 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.