

June 6, 2013

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

Sonoma County Airport  
Runway Safety Enhancement  
WDID No. 1B121882WNSO

Sonoma County

On October 1, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Jon Stout, Airport Manager, Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with improvements to Runway Safety Areas (RSA) to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety standards and guidelines for the purpose of improvement of public safety. The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with seasonal wetlands and creeks, in the Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Mark West Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 114.23. Project is located at the Charles Schulz – Sonoma County Airport, Airport Boulevard, Santa Rosa, latitude 38.508147°N, longitude 122.812901°W. Total permanent impact to various types of wetlands is 7.02 acres, and a permanent impact to Airport Creek of 1,506 linear feet.

The proposed Project includes the filling of a 1,506 linear foot reach of Airport Creek, a perennial stream, and re-routing of the filled reach into a new 671 linear foot channel and into an 885 linear foot underground culvert. The creek work is required to meet the FAA RSA specifications. The proposed Project also includes various other components that will require filling of jurisdictional wetlands and the clearing of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional riparian habitat. Specific impacts to waters of the state include:

- |                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Seasonal wetlands                | 4.46 acres        |
| 2. Non-wetland ditches              | 0.02 acres        |
| 3. Pond/marsh                       | 2.24 acres        |
| 4. Perennial Stream (Airport Creek) | 1,506 linear feet |
| 5. Willow scrub                     | 0.30 acres        |

The proposed Project will also result in the loss of 4.46 acres of habitat occupied by Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*), a state and federally listed plant species. The proposed Project will also result in permanent loss of 35.84 acres of uplands that are suitable movement and aestivation habitat for California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*)(CTS) a state and federally listed amphibian species.

Compensatory mitigation to offset impacts to waters of the state includes on-site and off-site mitigation. The FAA has safety regulations that result in prohibiting most of the on-site mitigation. The bulk of mitigation for both wetland and creek impacts will be mitigated by purchase of credits from approved mitigation banks, and/or specific off-site projects. These mitigation banks and projects include: Desmond Mitigation Bank; Horn Mitigation Bank; Alton South Conservation Area; Brown Farm Site; East Austin Creek Mitigation Bank,

and on-site mitigation for creek impacts within the re-routed Airport Creek section. The total mitigation ratio for combined impacts to jurisdictional wetlands is 1.9:1. The total mitigation ration for impacts to jurisdictional creek and riparian area is 3.5:1 based on acreage, and 4.7:1 based on linear feet. The applicant will also mitigate for impacts to listed plants and CTS at agency approved banks/projects.

The proposed Project will employ techniques and facilities to treat, detain, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from new and existing impervious surfaces.

The proposed Project is planned to commence in summer 2013 and have a work duration of approximately three years.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the proposed Project under an Individual Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has also applied to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Lake and/or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Sonoma County PRMD, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, completed an Environmental Impact Report and filed the Notice of Determination for it with the State Clearinghouse, (SCH No. 2008062022) on January 24, 2012, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

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 project including maps and photos. 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.