

June 7, 2013

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

Sonoma County Department of Transportation
Wallace Road Rincon Creek Bank Stabilization
WDID No. 1B12114WNSO

Sonoma County

On June 20, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Department of Transportation (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with bank repair and stabilization along Wallace Road for the purpose of improvement of public safety. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Rincon Creek, in the Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Santa Rosa Creek Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 114.22. Permanent impact to the creek bed and bank is approximately 0.022 acres/95 linear feet.

The proposed project is to repair a failing creek bank that is eroding into the roadway embankment. The roadway is narrow at the project location and without shoulders. The creek bank has eroded to the edge of the pavement. This area of the creek is well-vegetated with a mature tree canopy. It is not anticipated that trees or vegetation will need to be removed. The proposed repair will include installation of a rock slope protection (RSP) wall along the length of the failing area. The width of the roadway will be increased to include space for a guard rail to be installed. All equipment work will be from the roadway surface. The RSP wall will be stacked into an excavated keyway and built vertically to the elevation of the roadway, approximately eight vertical feet.

The project is planned to commence in summer 2013 and have a work duration of approximately 3 days. Instream work would be limited to the dry season, between June 15 and October 15. The creek is anticipated to be dry during construction; if any water from the construction area needs to be removed, it shall be pumped to a tank and disposed of at a legal point of disposal outside of waters of the state.

Mitigation includes decreased sediment delivery to the creek from the eroding bank. There will be no vegetation removal, and no loss of capacity of the creek.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit 13 for Bank Stabilization Projects, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has also applied to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, completed a Notice of Categorical Exemption (15301(c)-Existing Facilities) June 20, 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.

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