

June 26, 2013

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

Galbreath Preserve
Navarro Headwaters TMDL Implementation
Sediment Reduction Project
WDID No. 1B13048WNME

Mendocino County

On April 25, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Sonoma State University (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with sediment reduction activities associated with unimproved ranch roads. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with tributaries to Rancheria Creek, within the Navarro River Hydrologic Area, Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No. 113.50. The Project is located at latitude 38.850865°N, and longitude 123.246362°W. Temporary impact to bed and bank of unnamed tributaries to Rancheria Creek and the Navarro River is approximately 0.31 acres/1,330 linear feet.

The primary purpose and final goal of the project is to prevent sediment delivery to Rancheria Creek and to actively implement TMDL recommendations on conservation lands owned and managed by Sonoma State University. The project should prevent approximately 9,075 cubic yards of sediment from being delivered to streams. The project is funded through Federal Clean Water Act 319(h) Nonpoint Source, and State Proposition 84 Storm water grant program grants.

The project will reduce chronic and episodic sediment delivery to Upper Rancheria Creek. Road upgrades, including outsloping, removal of outside berms, installation of rolling dips, filling of inboard ditches, will be implemented to approximately 9.3 miles of roadways within the project area. Additionally, 38 sites where the roads cross watercourses will be upgraded to reduce sediment delivery. The 38 sites include two (2) bridges, 27 culverts to be replaced/resized, and 9 armored crossings.

An area of approximately 1 acre/0.25 miles of creek will be the site of a riparian restoration/demonstration project to restore native vegetation to the area to provide shade, habitat and bank stabilization to this reach that has been degraded by excessive grazing and management activities. The area will also serve as an area to hold restoration workshops.

All work will be done per recommendations within the *Handbook of Forest and Ranch Roads* (Hagans & Weaver, 1994) and the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual* (CDFG, Third Edition). The project is planned for summer-fall 2013. Work is planned to last up to 100 working days.

The project is self-mitigating; it is designed to reduce delivery of sediment and will improve water quality conditions. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has also applied to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, Agreement No. 1600-2012-072-R1.

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has filed a Mitigated Negative Declaration with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2012052019) on May 7, 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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