

August 21, 2013

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

**HJH Family Bank Stabilization Project  
WDID No. 1B13053WNSO**

**Sonoma County**

On May 22, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mrs. Laura Wilson of HJH Family LLC (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with bank stabilization and revegetation on the Russian River, near Guerneville, Sonoma County. The site is at 14613 River Road, latitude 38.519045°N, longitude 122.979128°W. The HJH Family Bank Stabilization Project (Project) will cause impacts to approximately 0.07 acres, of river bank of the Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11, Lower Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The Project includes safety and water quality protection improvements to an eroding area of the river bank that is directly below the applicant's house and endangering the stability of the foundation. The eroding area is approximately 70 feet long and approximately 28 feet wide. The area has been actively eroding during high water events, has contributed sediment to the river, and is threatening to undermine the house foundation. The proposed Project will install a buried row of stacked 3 foot cubed gabion baskets filled with rocks at the toe of slope and at the top of slope near the foundation of the house. Spanning the rows of gabions will be flat gabion baskets approximately 6 feet by 9 feet by one foot thick. These flat or "mattress" gabions will be tied together and filled with rock. Native trees, shrubs and grasses will be planted in and around the gabion structure, to further stabilize the bank, provide shade to the repaired area and the river bank, and to provide overhanging vegetation over the river channel. The vegetation will be irrigated, monitored and maintained and reported on for at least five years or until the vegetation is thriving and providing shade to the repair area. Net effects of the Project on the river bank consists of stabilizing the river bank, significant reduction in sediment delivered to the Russian River, and improving water quality conditions. No work is planned to be performed within the wetted channel.

The Project is planned to take place the summer and fall of 2013. Work is proposed to last approximately ten weeks.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. Additionally, the applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The Regional Board, as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) responsible agency, has determined that this Project is exempt from CEQA and anticipates filing a Notice of Exemption for the project 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.

The Project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to reduce the public health and safety and water quality impact issues of the eroding area of the river bank that is directly below the applicant's house and endangering the stability of the foundation. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the nature of public health and safety associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.