

August 28, 2013

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

**Sonoma County – Giovanetti Road Culvert Project
WDID No. 1B13065WNSO**

Sonoma County

On May 24, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with replacement of a culvert under Giovanetti Road in Forestville, Sonoma County. The site is located at approximately 6800 Giovanetti Road at latitude 38.462778 N, longitude 122.906389 W. The Sonoma County – Giovanetti Road Culvert Project (Project) will cause impacts to approximately 20 square feet and 2 linear feet of an unnamed tributary to Green Valley Creek, Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11.

The Project includes public safety improvements to the failing culvert beneath the roadway. The culvert failure has caused failure of the roadway surface and temporary metal plates have been placed over the roadway on an emergency basis. Using an excavator from the roadway, the proposed Project will replace two parallel 30-foot long, 36-inch diameter, corrugated metal culverts with two plastic pipe culverts of the same size and length. Excavation will occur within the existing culvert and roadway footprint. The Applicant will place the culvert bottom even with the channel bed at the culvert inlets and outlets. Applicant will place rock slope protection around inlets and outlets to prevent erosion. The proposed Project will be conducted in late summer when the water course is dry. All asphalt materials will be recycled and soil will be disposed of at the Sonoma County Central Landfill. Following culvert replacement the Applicant will revegetate the disturbed area with locally collected native seeds.

The Project is planned to take place the summer or fall of 2013. Work is proposed to last for approximately two days.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit (file no. 2013-00210N). Additionally, the applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The Regional Water 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 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 safety issue of the roadway failing due to the culvert failure. 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 safety associated with this project, 401 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.