

September 3, 2013

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

**Ramey Vineyard Bank Stabilization / Habitat Enhancement Project
WDID No. 1B13055WNSO**

Sonoma County

On May 8, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from David Ramey (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)) for activities associated with the Ramey Vineyard Bank Stabilization / Habitat Enhancement Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) associated with the Russian River, within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Guerneville Hydrologic Sub-Area 114.11. The Project is located at approximately 7097 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA at latitude 38.5247 N, longitude 122.8641 W. Permanent impact to the bank of the Russian River would be approximately 205 linear feet, approximately 0.228 acres.

The Project involves water quality protection improvements to approximately 205 linear feet of eroding river bank as well as habitat improvements within the reach. The Project proposes to construct bank protection using bioengineered stabilization techniques incorporating native vegetation. The following would be incorporated at the site: Rock and live willow brush layers, boulder bank protection with live willow sprigging and live willow brush layers with coir wrapped soil and gravel lifts. Additionally, a complex log habitat structure and a log with a root ball would be installed at the site. The project proposes to remove a steel well tower and associated standpipe whose eroding base threatens to drop the structure into the channel. A broken section of culvert will also be removed and flow redirected to drain over rock and live willow branch packing down to water level. The Applicant proposes to revegetate and decommission the access road to the well head following removal. The Project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

Mitigation for the impacts on the river bank consist of revegetation / stabilization of disturbed areas and creation of riparian habitat including effective shade and instream slow water resting areas for salmonids. All bioengineered structures, trees and shrub plantings shall have a minimum of 85% success criteria at the end of 5 years. Tree plantings at the project site will include 10 Oak and 10 Black Walnut trees, in addition to the above mentioned willow plantings. Plantings will be monitored and maintained (including irrigation if necessary) for five years. All disturbed areas will be mulched with rice straw and seeded with native grasses. Additionally, the invasive plant, *Arundo donax* will be removed from the gravel bar at the project site and disposed of appropriately.

The Project is planned to take place the summer or fall of 2013. Work is proposed to last for approximately four 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 Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2013052073), 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 water quality impact issues of significant erosion and sediment delivery along the river bank during the next wet season. 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 water quality impacts 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.