

October 9, 2013

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

Chrome Iron Vineyard/Icaria Creek Streambank Restoration Project  
WDID No. 1B13082WNSO

Sonoma County

On June 27, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Jim Ledbetter (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 Chrome Iron Vineyard/Icaria Creek Streambank Restoration Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and the State associated with Icaria Creek, a linear water course within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Geyserville Hydrologic Sub-Area 114.25. The Project is located at 27105 Chrome Iron Road, Cloverdale, CA 95425, at latitude 38.771902°N, and longitude 122.990316°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. would be approximately 170 linear feet, approximately 690 square feet. Permanent impact to waters of the state would be approximately 170 linear feet, approximately 2,490 square feet.

The primary purpose of the project is to prevent bank erosion at one site, approximately 170 feet in length, which is contributing sediment to Icaria Creek, tributary to the Russian River, and threatening to capture a vineyard road. The project involves stabilization of 170 feet of the bank using bioengineered live willow structures, with a total disturbed area of 3,180 square feet along the south side of Icaria Creek. For the first 110 feet of the project length, a 15-foot wide live willow brush mattress will be installed with a rock toe. 4-foot long live willow stakes will be driven in on 3-foot centers over the surface as tie downs. Live willow cuttings will be placed in the toe trench, which will be keyed into the water table. 1.5-3 ton rock will be placed in the toe trench to hold them in place. More layers of willow branches will be laid upslope. Approximately 20 cubic yards of gravel, skimmed from the opposing gravel bar, will be placed on top of the willow mattress to prevent drying while the willow grows roots. A slope of rock and brush layers will be installed along the remaining 60 feet of bank. The height of the bank ranges from 10 feet to 18 feet and the slope ratio will be 1.5:1 after construction. 2-3 ton footer rocks will be keyed into the stream bed, followed by a layer of live willow covered with gravel and built up with consecutive layers of 2-3 ton rock, willow, and gravel.

Mitigation for the impacts to stream bank include: bioengineered bank protection; revegetation of the bank with native willow; and protection of disturbed, bare areas with mulch, native grass and wildflower mix, and coir or jute netting. Additional plantings at the top of the bank include toyon, coyote brush, and elderberry. All plantings will be

maintained and monitored for a minimum of five years, to meet the success criteria of at least 85% survival. The Project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The project is planned to take place in the fall of 2013. Work is proposed to last for approximately 2.5 weeks.

The Applicant has been authorized by the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit (File Number 2013-00312N). Additionally, the applicant has been issued a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. 1600-2013-0252-R3) by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, had determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, 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 increased water quality impact and public safety issues associated with significant sediment delivery from actively eroding banks during the next wet season as well as erosion that threatens an existing structure. 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 impact and public safety issues associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.