

October 17, 2013

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

Fife Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project
WDID No. 1B12172WNSO

Sonoma County

On August 27, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ray Arata (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 Fife Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and the State associated with Fife Creek, a linear water course within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Guerneville Hydrologic Sub-Area 114.11. The Project is located at 16145 Watson Road, Guerneville, CA 95446, at latitude 38.516211°N, and longitude 122.998389°W. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. would be approximately 50 linear feet, approximately 240 square feet. Temporary impact to waters of the state would be approximately 50 linear feet, approximately 400 square feet.

The primary purpose of the project is to repair a failed section of existing flood wall and protect the applicant's single family residence. The project involves the stabilization of approximately 50 linear feet of stream bank along the east side of Fife Creek, with a total disturbed area of 400 square feet. Approximately 45 cubic yards of 24-36" diameter rock from a local quarry will be installed along the stream bank to form an erosion control buttress wall with an average height of four to five feet. The voids between the rocks will be filled with excavated native soil to assist revegetation and willow poles will be placed in the keyway. Live staking will be planted in the gaps of the rip rap and mature native trees in 5-gallon containers will be planted above the rip rap toe.

Mitigation for the impacts to stream bank include: revegetation with willow poles and live staking on 2-foot centers or within available voids around rip rap; planting of a minimum of five mature native trees (5-gallon containers) at the top of the buttress wall. 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 75 days.

The Applicant has been authorized by the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. Additionally, the applicant has been issued a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. 1600-2012-0336-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 Determination 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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.