

February 6, 2014

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

Healdsburg Avenue Bridge Retrofit/Rehabilitation Project
WDID 1B13155WNSO

Sonoma County

On December 12, 2013, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mario Landeros, City of Healdsburg (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 Healdsburg Avenue Bridge Retrofit/Rehabilitation Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with the Lower Russian River, Guerneville hydrologic sub-area, 114.11. The project is located where Healdsburg Avenue crosses the Russian River in Healdsburg, California, at latitude 38.603708°N and longitude 122.860158°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.103 acres and temporary impacts would be approximately 0.889 acres.

The purpose of the project is to seismically retrofit and rehabilitate the Healdsburg Avenue bridge. The bridge does not meet current design and safety standards and is considered functionally obsolete. Because the bridge is historical and valued by the community, the city decided to retrofit the bridge rather than replace it. The project will involve construction of a new center pier, demolition and replacement of the bridge deck, sandblasting and repainting of the entire bridge, and placement of rip rap abutment protection. A temporary construction platform would be built to provide access for construction of the new center pier. The platform would either be a trestle bridge with steel pipe piles or an earthen platform constructed with clean aggregate.

Proposed mitigation for project impacts includes the removal of a concrete pad on the eastern bank and riparian planting on the western bank. A planting and monitoring plan will be developed prior to issuance of the 401 water quality certification, and will be made available for public review and comment. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. Project activities are expected to occur between June 15 and October 15, with work ceasing during fall salmon runs. Work is expected to last approximately 8 months.

The applicant has applied for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On December 2, 2013, the City of Healdsburg, acting as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, filed a notice of determination with the state clearinghouse, declaring that an initial study/mitigated negative declaration had been approved for the project (SCH 2013092009). The notice of determination was received by the state clearinghouse on December 10, 2013.

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. Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.