

February 13, 2014

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

Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit IOS1-B
WDID 1B13136WNSO

Sonoma County

On November 6, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Bill Gamlen, P.E. Chief Engineer, Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (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 Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit IOS1-B project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with the Russian River Watershed. The project is located on the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) railway between mile posts 55.2 and 59.9 in Santa Rosa, California. The north end of the project is at latitude 38.511075°N and longitude 122.78521°W and the south end of the project is at latitude 38.455404°N and longitude 122.736538°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.19 acres.

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the existing rail infrastructure for SMART passenger rail service. The project will involve removal of existing rail, ties, and some of the ballast and sub-ballast. The track support prism materials will be reused, new ballast will be added, and the rails and ties will be upgraded. Four existing bridge structures will be repaired in place with no in-water work or impacts to their beds or banks. Twelve cross-track jurisdictional culverts will be replaced and eight new cross-track culverts will be installed. Three of the new culverts will impact and connect wetlands.

Compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to 0.19 acres will be the purchase of 0.20 acres of credits at an existing wetland bank in the service area. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. Work is expected to begin in the 2014 operating season and may last one year.

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

On July 19, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), determined that an environmental impact report was prepared and certified for the project (SCH

2002112033). Subsequent amendments, additions, and notices of determination are available and listed on the state clearinghouse website.

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.

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