

April 21, 2014

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

Sonoma County Bodega Highway Culvert Replacement on  
Tributary to Salmon Creek  
WDID 1B14033WNSO

Sonoma County

On April 7, 2014, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works (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 Bodega Highway Culvert Replacement on Tributary to Salmon Creek Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with the Salmon Creek hydrologic area, Bodega hydrologic unit. The project is located near 14715 Bodega Highway, in Freestone, California, at latitude 38.3578°N and longitude 122.9315°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.01 acres and 13 linear feet. Temporary impacts would be approximately 0.03 acres and 137 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to replace a failed metal culvert and repair an eroding bank slump. The project would involve removing a partially collapsed and separated 36-inch metal culvert in sections, working within a trench. The culvert would be replaced with a new 48-inch plastic culvert that will accommodate the 100-year flow and resist deterioration. The inlet and outlet of the new culvert would be armored with rock slope protection (RSP). A minor amount of vegetation will be removed or trimmed around both culvert ends. No equipment will enter the channel. The channel is expected to be dry during construction, but if water is present, the site will be dewatered with a small cofferdam and the water will be discharged in an upland location, or cleanly bypass the project to maintain any flow.

No net loss to waters of the state will occur and no mitigation is proposed. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project is expected to begin on June 1, 2014, and finish by October 31, 2014.

The applicant has also 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.

The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15301: Existing Facilities, 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. 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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