

May 29, 2014

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

Sonoma County Water Agency Mirabel Fish
Ladder and Screen Replacement Project
WDID 1B13106WNSO

Sonoma County

On August 12, 2013, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (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 Mirabel Fish Ladder and Screen Replacement Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with the Lower Russian River (114.11). The project is located at 10290 Westside Road in Forestville, California, at latitude 38.500025°N and longitude 122.886144°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 1.149 acres and 1,720 linear feet. Temporary impacts would be approximately 0.468 acres and 980 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to provide a fish screen that meets hydraulic design criteria to avoid impacts for threatened and endangered fish, maintain or improve fish passage at the fish ladder, and to improve monitoring and educational opportunities at the Mirabel inflatable dam and diversion facilities. The replacement of the fish screen is required by the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008 Biological Opinion for the Russian River. The project would involve isolating flow from the Russian River around the work area, removing the fish screen/intake and fish ladder structures on the west bank, and constructing the new fish screen/intake and fish ladder structures. The new facilities would extend approximately 40 feet farther upstream and approximately 100 feet farther downstream. Modification of the access road to Mirabel Dam would also occur and would involve making it less steep and include an entrance, exit, and parking area. A stairway from the top of bank down to the dam would be constructed.

Because the project improves an existing facility, no compensatory mitigation is required. Non-compensatory mitigation includes implementation of a revegetation plan where riparian habitat has been lost. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. Construction is expected to begin this year and may last two years, with construction occurring during the low-flow season of June 15 – October 15.

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

The Sonoma County Water Agency, acting as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, filed a notice of determination with the state clearinghouse on January 30, 2013, finding that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH 2010082040) had been prepared for the project.

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.