

July 15, 2014

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

Grub Creek Instream Pond Removal Project
WDID 1B14034WNSO

Sonoma County

On April 7, 2014, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Bohemia Preserve, LLC (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 Grub Creek Instream Pond Removal Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with Grub Creek, tributary to Dutch Bill Creek in the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Area of the Russian River (114.11). The project is located at 6407 Bohemian Highway in Occidental, at latitude 38.441057°N and longitude 122.967078°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 1.24 acres.

The purpose of the project is to remove a 1.6-acre instream pond and restore a 500-foot reach of Grub Creek. The 1.6-acre pond was created by a large instream earthen dam in the 1950s, designed to contain streamflow from Grub Creek for livestock use. While the spillway was destroyed in the 1970s and the dam is no longer functional, flow from Grub Creek currently pools in the area of the former pond before exiting through the old spillway. The existing pond interferes with summer streamflow, and the transport of sediment, gravel, and floating woody debris from 70% of the Grub Creek watershed. The project will remove the remnant instream pond and restoration of 500' of the Grub Creek stream channel to restore summer flow, gravel transport, and salmonid habitat. A smaller 0.67-acre wildlife/recreation pond will be constructed adjacent to the restored stream channel.

Restoration will include the formation of channel meander bends, increasing the riparian corridor width to 55', and planting the banks with native riparian vegetation. Fish habitat pools will be created in the restored channel, with large wood structures to provide shelter and create further pool scour for improved salmonid habitat. The new, 0.67-acre pond will be fed from overland flow from the surrounding hills, rather than from streamflow.

The project will permanently impact 1.24 acres of wetland and create 0.77 acres of new riparian wetland and seasonal wetland habitat, a ratio of 0.6:1 for impacts to mitigation. While the project will result in a net loss of wetlands, higher quality and functionality is expected as a result of the restoration project. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. Project activities would occur outside of the wet weather period of October 15 through May 15, and are expected to last 2-1/2 months. The project may commence in 2014.

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 Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, acting as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, filed a notice of determination with the state clearinghouse stating that a mitigated negative declaration was prepared for the project. The state clearinghouse received the notice of determination on July 9, 2014.

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.