

August 5, 2014

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

Margaret West Conservation Bank Access Culvert Installation Project  
WDID No. 1B14057WNSO

Sonoma County

On June 16, 2014, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Harvey Rich, Margaret West Conservation Preserve, LLC., and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (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 Margaret West Conservation Bank Access Culvert Installation Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with the Laguna de Santa Rosa in the Russian River Watershed (114.21). The project is located at 1682 Ludwig Avenue in Santa Rosa, at latitude 38.40350°N and longitude 122.771417°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.002 acres and 38 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to provide an access point to the Margaret West Conservation Bank. The project would involve the placement of a 24-inch diameter, 38-foot long culvert in the ditch on top of which the access road would be built. The culvert would be buried approximately 6 inches below the existing ground surface and the bottom of the culvert would be filled with natural soil and gravel material to create a natural bottom and allow the continued movement of wildlife along the ditch bottom.

No compensatory mitigation is required due to the small area of impact. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. Construction is expected to begin by September 1, and is expected to last one to three days.

The applicant has applied for Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15303(d)-New Construction, and will file a Notice of Determination 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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