

September 4, 2014

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

Austin Creek Gravel Extraction and Salmonid Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project  
WDID 1B12006WNSO

Sonoma County

On August 21, 2014, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Wendel Trape, Diamond "T" Natural Resources, 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 Austin Creek Gravel Extraction and Salmonid Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with Austin Creek, tributary to the Lower Russian River (114.11). The project is located at 600 Austin Creek Road in Cazadero, at latitude 38.474861°N and longitude 123.048969°W. Temporary impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 1.22 acres or 3,060 linear feet with up to 10,000 cubic yards of gravel removed.

The purpose of the project is aggregate extraction and improvement of salmonid habitat. The project would involve mining gravel bars 1, 2, 3, and 5, using the horseshoe skimming method. The skimming is designed to minimize changes to the gravel bar form that affect channel forming flows. The upstream end and outer edge of the gravel bar will not be disturbed, which will allow the bar to grow with future recruitment of gravel.

The project is designed to mitigate the gravel extraction by increasing pool depth and complexity through utilization of the horseshoe skimming method. The project also includes visual monitoring of changes to geomorphology and habitat structure by resource agencies. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. Activities would occur in the fall of 2014. This project is for a one-time implementation of the gravel skimming operation. The applicant will apply for a new, longer term permit for subsequent years after this year.

The applicant has applied for Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The applicant has received a Lake and Streambed Authorization Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (1600-2009-0143-R3).

The Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management District, acting as lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project on September 16, 2004 (SCH 2004082120).

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.