

March 24, 2015

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

**Hague-River Blvd Streambank Retention Project
WDID 1B14198WNSO**

Sonoma County

On October 14, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Joe Hague (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 Hague-River Blvd Streambank Retention Project (project). The application was deemed complete on March 19, 2015. The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with a tributary to the Lower Russian River (114.11). The project is located at 20655 River Boulevard in Monte Rio, at latitude 38.4681°N and longitude 123.005953°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.03 acres or 70 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to stabilize the failing stream bank adjacent to a home. Five drilled helical piers will be installed to support the home and will be drilled in place using a small, track mounted drill rig and then pinned to the home's foundation prior to beginning bank stabilization. Previously installed bank stabilization measures, including plastic wrapped hay bales and a wood wall, will be removed. A rock wall will be installed, with the toe of the wall being keyed into the base of the slope in a trench measuring approximately 5 feet wide by 4 feet deep by 70 feet long. Geotechnical fabric will line the slope and trench. Excavated top soil will be used to backfill voids in the upper part of the bank so that it can be replanted with native willows starting above the ordinary high water mark. Willow sprigging will be installed in 5 rows and on 2-foot centers. Willow sprigging will occur in winter after the wall is built and when the plants are dormant.

Willow sprigging will be used to mitigate for the permanent impacts associated with bank hardening. Additionally, non-native, invasive vegetation will be removed and replaced with native plants. All temporary access routes will be fully restored with native vegetation. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project is expected to occur between June 15 and October 15, 2015.

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 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 15302: Replacement or Reconstruction, 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 notice 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.